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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-237
Friday
9 December 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-237 *9 December 1988*

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LD0912140688 [Editorial Report]

Israeli Operation in Lebanon

An IDF lieutenant colonel was killed and three soldiers were wounded during an IDF raid on PFLP-GC bases south of Beirut the night of 8-9 December, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF radio.

Israeli naval, land, and air force units participated in the operation northeast of Al-Damur, inflicting casualties on the "terrorists" and damaging their installations.

Jerusalem radio subsequently announced that the operation had ended and that "all" Israeli military personnel had returned, including four soldiers who became separated from the main force but were rescued.

IDF sources denied Lebanese reports that the Israeli force clashed with Syrian units in the area, the radio noted.

The IDF chief of staff asserted that the operation was "successful," despite the Israeli casualties, according to the radio.

The clandestine Al-Quds radio broadcast a number of PFLP-GC communiques which spoke of fierce battles lasting 10 hours during which the Israelis carried out "large-scale" landings in the Al-Na'imah area in an attempt to rescue a raiding party which had been surrounded.

The PFLP-GC reportedly captured 18 Israeli soldiers, but some of them were killed as a result of "extensive and violent" clashes that raged during their evacuation.

The communiques also claimed an Israeli aircraft was downed and acknowledged a PFLP-GC commander was killed.

Among Lebanese reportage, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio affirmed that Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias and Syrian forces were involved in the fighting.

Voice of Lebanon radio cited information that a number of Israeli prisoners were transferred to West Beirut and that 22 Palestinians and 8 PSP fighters were killed in the clashes.

The Israeli prisoners were from a force which landed in the Al-Na'imah area by helicopter, the radio said.

Beirut radio noted that the Israeli forces on land were supported by air strikes and claimed Israeli helicopters dropped "strange objects, like time bombs."

An AFP report said the Israeli officer who died in the operation was involved in an unsuccessful seaborne landing attempt at Al-Damur.

Downing of U.S. Plane

A Moroccan source cited by Rabat radio disclosed that a U.S. DC-7 civilian aircraft exploded in the air after being hit by a surface-to-air missile on a flight from Dakar to Agadir 8 December.

The aircraft, which had been hired by the U.S. Agency for International Development to fight locusts in Morocco, was hit while flying in an international flight corridor near the northern Mauritanian town of Bir Moghrein, located near the border with the Western Sahara.

A second DC-7 was also hit but was able to continue its flight at low altitude and land at an airfield in Morocco.

Israel

The Labor Party Central Committee overturned the decision of the Party Bureau on negotiating with the Likud, voting by 638 votes to 349 in favor of resuming negotiations for the establishment of a broad-based government, Jerusalem television reported.

The vote means that the Alignment is ready to begin negotiations on the terms offered by the Likud prior to the Bureau vote on 30 November.

However, both Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said they are not willing to participate in a government alongside extreme right-wing parties.

In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Peres said the Labor Party will pursue two goals in government: keeping the peace process alive and reforming the electoral system.

Likud ministers responded by approving the resumption of negotiations with the Alignment, IDF radio reported.

The question of whether there will be any significance to agreements reached between Likud and other parties remains open, the radio added.

The Likud had earlier signed a coalition agreement with Tehiya providing for the appointment of a Tehiya leader to head the ministerial committee on settlement affairs, according to the radio.

Shamir has also approved a coalition agreement with the National Religious Party, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Among further Israeli reaction to the Stockholm document announced by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Defense Minister Rabin told Jerusalem television that he is still opposed to holding talks with the PLO, because any such dialogue would signal Israel's a priori acquiescence to the idea of a Palestinian state.

While 'Arafat is displaying greater "verbal flexibility" than in the past, Rabin said, he has not changed his objectives and is "not telling the truth about terrorism."

PLO: Stockholm Document

Commenting on the Stockholm document in remarks cited by Radio Monte Carlo, Yasir 'Arafat pointed out there are no signatures on it as he only signs documents with officials and members of governments.

'Arafat denied that he personally drafted the document, noting it was formulated jointly by a PNC Foreign Relations delegation and members of the U.S. Jewish delegation.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Yasir 'Arafat met together in Carthage 8 December, Tunis radio reported.

Speaking at a banquet in honor of his guests, Ben Ali stated that Tunisia and Libya intend to make "great steps" to build the "greater Arab Maghreb" and that events are bringing the two countries closer.

The need for greater Arab cooperation and unity was highlighted by Jordan's King Husayn in a recent interview with a Kuwaiti paper broadcast by Amman radio.

Stressing that his frequent visits to other Arab capitals are aimed at establishing "reconciliation and accord," Husayn called for the resolution of oustanding border problems between Arab states and for the establishment of a joint Arab military force.

He also proposed that the next Arab summit conference be held in Iraq "so that everybody understands that Arabs support Baghdad in war and peace," adding the conference should invite Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to attend.

A Saudi source cited by SPA affirmed that Saudi Arabia seeks to convene the next ordinary Arab summit in Riyadh, as planned, if and when the Kingdom becomes convinced that the "atmosphere is appropriate" for convening the conference.

However, Saudi Arabia is also willing to attend an extraordinary summit that serves Arab interests "at any time and in any place," the source added.

Afghanistan

An Afghan Air Force pilot defected to Pakistan in a MiG-21 aircraft, Islamabad radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Government, Stockholm Document

JN0812183188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat announced in Tunis today that the uprising will continue until the occupation ends. The PLO chairman asserted that Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], who was assassinated in Tunis last April, was the one who established the uprising.

'Arafat then spoke about the provisional Palestinian government and said: This provisional government will be proclaimed in Tunis under the patronage of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. 'Arafat did not divulge the date of this proclamation but said: The PLO is exercising the powers of this government until it is formed.

'Arafat has shed some light on the issue of the Stockholm document [signed] after his meeting with a U.S. Jewish delegation. As published in Stockholm, the document says verbatim: The PNC proclaims the independent State of Palestine and agrees to accept Israel as a state in the region. The PNC declares its rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism.

'Arafat said that this document is a good [jayyidah] reading of the PNC resolutions. It is known that this document received several reactions from inside and outside Israel. Some regarded it as a positive step and others said it does not bring anything new. Washington is awaiting the official text of the document and London, through the Foreign Office, voiced relief and is awaiting a positive reaction from the Israelis.

'Arafat said he personally did not participate in drafting the Stockholm document. The delegation of the PNC's Foreign Relations Committee and the members of the U.S. Jewish delegation drafted the document.

The document does not bear any signatures. Asked about this, 'Arafat said: With the respect that I harbor for the U.S. delegation, I must make it clear that I sign documents with officials and members of governments.

'Arafat finally said: I must assert I want to remove any misunderstanding after I have seen that certain papers attributed the document to me.

Abu Musa Group Accuses 'Arafat of 'High Treason'

NC0812203588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The Fatah Provisional Command led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] has accused PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of high treason against the Palestinian people. It called on patriotic Palestinians to confront the defeatists, as it put it.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Ghawshah has stated that 'Arafat's statements harm Palestinian national unity and the PLO and violate the PNC resolutions.

Factions Assail 'Arafat's Stockholm Remarks

JN0912130488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Four Palestinian factions have criticized Yasir 'Arafat's statements in Stockholm. These are the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], the Fatah Provisional Command Movement led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], and the [Palestinian] Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Ghawshah.

These factions, which are not members of the PLO, vehemently criticized the statements, regarding them as betrayal of both the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

In Damascus, a spokesman for the DFLP today said the Stockholm document on explaining the PNC resolutions is a completely wrong reading of these resolutions. The DFLP warned the PLO against responding to the terms and demands stipulated by the U.S. Administration to hold a dialogue with the PLO.

PLO Officials on 'Uprising,' State, U.S. Stand

JN0812110788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that the uprising in the occupied territories will continue and escalate until the Palestinian people achieve their objectives and until an independent Palestinian state is established on their land despite Zionist arrogance and intransigence and also despite the U.S. support biased toward Israel.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH today, Abu Sharif also asserted that in the coming days the uprising will enter a more developed and more comprehensive phase and that peace in the region will not be brought about unless the enemy recognizes the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights. Abu Sharif accused the U.S. Administration of having been totally biased toward Israel and against the legitimate Palestinian rights throughout President Reagan's era.

Replying to a question on the Palestinian state's request to obtain a permanent and full seat in the United Nations and the U.S. stand on this request, Abu Sharif said that in light of the international support and recognition it is our right that the United Nations should accept this request. The use of a U.S. veto will directly mean a veto against Resolution 181, which also means a veto against Israel's existence, he added.

In another statement to the newspaper AL-RAYAH, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, official PLO spokesman, criticized the U.S. stand on the Palestinian people's rights. He said the U.S. decision not to grant 'Arafat an entry visa reflects Washington's belittlement of the Arab weight in international poolitics. The Americans have no right to determine who can speak in the Palestinian people's name, he added.

Concluding his statement, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman stressed the need for holding an Arab summit in order to work out a unified strategy toward the U.S. stand. He asserted that Tel Aviv's decision to continue repression against the Palestinian people is Washington's decision first and foremost.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues 'Call No 30'

JN0712202588 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1846 GMT 7 Dec 88

["Call No 30" issued by the PLO, "the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising"—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice can rise above the voice of the uprising. No voice can rise above the voice of the Palestine people, the people of the PLO. Call No 30, issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising [UNLU], call of the uprising.

O masses of our people in our dear homeland: Your giant, victorious uprising has entered its 2d year, achieving one victory after another on the path of liberation and independence and continues firm and solid toward the achievement of its national legitimate aspirations and our inalienable national rights .

This uprising, that was waged by the arms of children, convoys of martyrs, and the tribulation of our genuine people, has entered its 2d year while it is stronger and more solid in the tribulation, steadfastness, and confrontation in the face of the Zionist repressive methods aimed at extinguishing the fires of your victorious uprising.

Our masses, which opted for the path of freedom, loftiness, and dignity, will continue their march to exercise their legitimate rights and sovereignty over the soil of our independent state, Palestine.

On this dear occasion, we address our greetings and respect to our heroic martyrs who fell on the path of the glorious uprising, salute the wounded who fell at the hands of the occupation, and greet the convoys of prisoners in the Zionist detention camps—the prisoners who, through their creative revolutionary struggle, escalate the blessed uprising and kindle the fires of confrontation with the Zionist occupants to declare to the world that the Palestinian people, who started the uprising 1 year ago, will not go back on their brave national decision to continue the march of struggle, sacrifice, and martyrdom until we extract our inalienable national rights, including the right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of the independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

O our militant masses: Throughout a whole year, the voice of the blessed Palestinian uprising echoed throughout the world to make the world with all its forces, political currents, and parties and the friendly and enemy governments understand that the Palestinian people are alive and struggling—a people that reject occupation, capitulation, humiliation, and submission. For this, our people have endured bitter pains and sufferings. Each time, our people nurse their wounds with pride and the sacrifices become greater with each drop of blood from our martyrs and wounded, the sighs of prisoners, and cries of widows and bereaved mothers.

The splendid heroic epics of our generous masses and their challenge of the occupation brutality and oppression were the basic course that placed our Palestine question at the top of international, Arab, and regional concerns. The Palestine question has become a topic at every diplomatic and political dialogue and meeting all over the world. Meanwhile, the Zionist occupation is facing political and social fragmentation and divisions thanks to the escalation and continuation of the uprising.

O masses of Palestine, o masses of the independent state: With the firmness of your will and your genuine revolutionary resistance, you were able—together with our legitimate leadership, the PLO—to stride with persistent militant steps toward declaring the Palestinian state, the dream of every Palestinian and free man in the world through the large-scale political success of the uprising session on the Algerian territory.

This revolution has responded to the Palestinian call and dream and the influential national groups in the Palestinian arena converged under the banner of the PLO, its legitimate institutions, and its creative national program expressing the intentions of every Palestinian embracing Palestine. That's how, O sons of our people, there were the series of great achievements that have been scored from the beginning of the uprising until the declaration of independence—independence which will inevitably establish national sovereignty on the land of the Palestinian state through the perpetuation and escalation of the uprising with stones, Molotov cocktails, knives, and everything that the mighty Palestinian hands can grasp to defeat the occupation and its tyranny thanks to our cohesion, our solid national unity, and the formation of more popular committees and various popular activities. All this is within the framework of national struggle.

We affirm that the UNLU is one and united and there is no dissidence within it, as some hostile media organs have tried to portray—dissidence resulting only from technical failures.

In spite of the objective understanding of each of the communiques of UNLU, the PFLP which has rejected Resolution No 242 as a political stand firmly believes in national unity and in the various frameworks and institutions of the PLO, including UNLU.

Masses of our great Palestinian people, the rancorous Zionist enemy continues its terrorist policies against our people, with the storming of cities and villages and with the stultification policy against our students in schools, institutes, colleges, and universities.

The acceptance of the occupation authorities to reopen the schools as a result of the pressure that has been brought to bear on them by our Palestinian masses is a great achievement we must safeguard. We must also exercise more pressure to force these authorities to reopen Palestinian institutes and universities. We also stress to the Higher Education Council the need to prepare the Palestinian curriculae in line with the structure of our independent Palestinian state. We affirm that the persistence of the occupation in its repressive policy and its use of incendiary material to quell the demonstrators will not dissuade the heroes of the stones and the Molotov cocktails from pursuing the march of the uprising, the march of Palestinian national independence.

In spite of the policy of economic constrictions and the imposition of a news blackout, we call on our heroic masses to pursue their confrontation of the forces of occupation and to continuously confront them by continuing to boycott Israeli agricultural and industrial products and other food products and by expanding the sphere of this boycott. This dictates on our people not to purchase any Israeli goods or products that have a local substitute. We here appeal to the merchants' committees in all places to work for entrenching the boycott of Israeli products and not to display them in the shops.

We call on the popular committees in all the areas to carry out a national enlightenment and encitement campaign to entrench the boycotting of all that is Israeli. We also appeal to our workers to boycott working in the factories and the citrus fruit plantations inside Israel to inflict economic losses on the Israeli products which compete with our national products.

We also call on the masses of our Palestinian people to be alert and cautious toward the attempts by the Israeli intelligence organs and their traitor agents to disseminate and distribute tendentious and suspect statements in the name of the UNLU and the committees in the various area. We here appeal to the strike forces to confront the gangs of traitors and deter them and force them to desist from treason, as well as those who who write false slogans and attack mosques and the houses of honest men.

We stress to the masses of our people the need to continue to confront—displaying total unity—all Israeli attempts to storm cities, villages, and camps. All must participate in confronting these Zionists. Also, we call upon the strike forces and the sons of our people to maintain further alertness and vigilance to avoid being caught by the occupation forces. Let there be further guard committees and strike groups to protect the effective human element of the uprising.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising affirms its adherence to the militant program that has been repeatedly mentioned in various calls issued since the beginning of the uprising. It also renews the pledge of allegiance, the oath, and the commitment to continue to escalate the uprising on the ground and politically until victory in its capacity as the militant arm of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people.

On the political level, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising renews the pledge to the leadership of our people and struggle, namely the PLO, to adhere to and totally support the PNC resolutions, the resolutions of the PNC uprising session, especially the declaration of Palestinian independence and the consecration of national unity. We pledge to our people we will remain loyal to this unity.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising addresses an urgent call to the leaders attending the Reagan-Gorbachev-Bush summit and asks them to shoulder their historic responsibilities of civilization and take positive stands toward Palestinian national rights in accord with international legitimacy, which was proclaimed by the PNC as the PLO's contribution to achieving peace and security in the world and the Middle East.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising praises the stands taken by the world's states in support and backing of our just cause—the world states that have joined in the rejection and condemnation of the U.S. stance, which is hostile to the Palestinian voice and took the form of a refusal on the part of the arrogant Shultz to grant leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] an entry visa to go to New York and deliver the Palestinian peace speech at the United Nations.

This U.S. stand is tantamount to an escalation of the U.S. position in its enmity toward Palestinian rights and the Palestinian national struggle. We call upon all Arab states to reconsider their relations with the United States. We also call upon the European states—governments and peoples—to recognize the independent Palestinian state and take a clear stand toward Israeli intransigence.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising pays homage and reverence to the martyrs of the uprising and their relatives—the martyrs whose immaculate blood has irrigated the homeland's soil so that the green plants, and the Palestinian olive branch, the symbol of just peace, can grow. At these moments, we remember all of our martyrs and especially our martyr, the symbol Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and tell them that the pledge and

the oath will be honored. We also tell them we will continue to work on the course of martyrdom and victory until the Palestinian flag flutters in the holy capital [Jerusalem].

O masses of our brave people, as your blessed uprising goes into its 2d year, we call on you to continue your struggle and unlimited donations in confronting the occupation by promoting the power of the people on Palestinian territory as a pillar of our independent state and effective steps leading toward the actual sovereignty of our Palestinian state.

To achieve this requires concentrating efforts to develop more popular committees, increasing their effectiveness, activating the committees of the strike forces, and selecting for attack targets which are more painful to the occupation. We urge our masses to continue their steps toward weakening the occupation authority regarding the civil administration, taxes, licensing departments, and so on, with the necessity of wide-scale popular participation in the various struggle activities through firm national unity.

O masses of our people, we call on you to execute the following activities:

1. 6 December is a day of general strike in solidarity with our brothers and comrades detained in the Zionist repressive detention camps, especially in the Ansar III camp, whose heroes have been tasting the pain of hunger since the 1st day of the current month.

2. 8 and 9 December are days of general strike in commemoration of the first anniversary of our people's gigantic uprising.

3. 11 December is a day of struggle escalation in commemoration of the beginning of the PFLP. The Unified National Leadership offers its congratulations to the comrades in the PFLP.

4. 12 December is a day for popular education and activation of the popular committees in commemoration of Palestinian teachers day. On this occasion, we ask our students and teachers to adhere to attendance schedules, except for the days of general strike, and to continue popular education.

5. 18 December, the day of Jerusalem, is a day for popular escalation in commemoration of the masses of our capital's revolution and their real participation in defending their city.

6. 21 December is a day of general strike and we salute our people inside the green line and ask them to declare a strike as a day for comprehensive Palestinian peace in commemoration of the strike announced last year to unify our Palestinian people everywhere.

7. 22 December is a day of solidarity with the Palestinian detainees to commemorate the opening of the Al-Dhahiriyah detention camp. We ask our people to declare their protests and raise their voices against the Zionist repressive measures in the fascist detention camps.

8. 24 December is the day for ringing church bells and calling for prayer from minarets commemorating the birth of the prophet of peace, Christ. We congratulate our Christian Palestinian brothers and ask them to be satisfied with holding religious ceremonies.

9. 13-15 December are struggle days on which the land will burn under the feet of the occupation on the occasion of brother Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar delivering the speech on Palestine in the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

More struggle until the achievement of victory and we shall definitely win.

Signed: PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

Egypt

Al-Baz, 'Abd al-Majid May Meet With Syrians

JN0812212488 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
7 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—AL-ANBA' has learned that Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of President Mubarak's office, may tomorrow meet with one of the Syrian political leaders in Amman.

On the other hand, the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has said that preparations are being made for a meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the fringes of the UN meetings in Geneva. The newspaper added that the Jordanian mediation has reached an advanced stage and will be crowned by a meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak in Amman or Al-'Aqabah.

'Tangible Progress' in Mediation With Libya

JN0812205883 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
7 Dec 88 pp 3, 20

[Excerpt] Cairo—Informed political sources in Cairo have told AL-ITTIHAD that tangible progress has been achieved in the mediation by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to cleanse the atmosphere between Egypt and Libya. These sources added that Egypt is studying a Libyan request regarding Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's desire to meet with Egyptian officials to discuss aspects of the dispute between the two countries.

Yesterday, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the reopening of Egyptian airspace to Libyan aviation is an important but limited step. He said that Egypt does not object to the restablishment of normal relations between Egypt and Syria away from previous practices. The tourism and civil aviation minister has explained that reopening airspace only includes eight airliners, flying passengers to Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage.

Informed political sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that during their talks in Cairo a few days ago, 'Arafat told President Mubarak that Al-Qadhdhafi sincerely desires to join the march of Arab solidarity and that this desire can only be achieved by cleansing the Egyptian-Libyan atmosphere. Al-Qadhdhafi has also expressed a desire to meet with Egyptian officials personally to discuss aspects of the dispute between the two countries and that he hopes that Egypt will agree to send important officials to Libya for that purpose.

The sources added that Mubarak thanked 'Arafat and promised to study the Libyan request. He also gave instructions to the Foreign Ministry to study the possibility of arranging a meeting between Egyptian and Libyan officials, provided this meeting does not take place in Libya.

The sources added that Egypt has asked 'Arafat to obtain an answer to a query about the basis for Egyptian-Libyan reconciliation from the Libyan viewpoint. 'Arafat replied that he will inform Egypt about this following his contacts with Libya after the UN General Assembly meeting in Geneva. [passage omitted]

Algeria Expresses 'Readiness' To Act as Mediator

PM0812161988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sources in Cairo to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Bendjedid Offers Mubarak Mediation With Iran To Resolve Egyptian POW Problem"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will resume his mediation between Egypt and Libya after he addresses the United Nations at its European headquarters in Geneva. Meanwhile, Algeria has expressed readiness to mediate to reconcile Egypt with both Libya and Syria, and also to mediate with Iran to resolve the problem of Egyptian POW's.

Informed sources have disclosed that the steps that have been taken, including allowing Libyan aircraft to cross Egyptian airspace or land during pilgrimage journeys, indicate that 'Arafat's mediation has certainly achieved some progress. It is an important step and a very good start.

Furthermore, informed sources emphasize that a new round of negotiations has begun with a view to resuming regular air flights between Egypt and Libya, on the condition that Egypt receives full commitments that any acts hampering a breakthrough would be stopped, so that incidents of the past would not be repeated.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak recently received an important message from Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid, which was conveyed by Egyptian Ambassador to Algeria Husayn Ahmad Amin.

The sources emphasized that the Algerian president's message contained an assurance of Algeria's readiness to play an effective role in reconciling Egypt with both Libya and Syria and in mediating with Iran to resolve the problem of Egyptian POW's.

The sources said that the next stage will witness extensive Egyptian-Algerian contacts in order to coordinate joint stands on Arab issues, work with the African states,

revive Arab-African cooperation, and form a joint high committee between the two countries under the Egyptian and Algerian prime ministers along the lines of the joint committees between Egypt and seven other Arab states, including Morocco and Tunisia.

Mustafa Khalil Interviewed on Ties With Israel

PM0812124688 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Dec 88 p 11

[Interview with Dr Mustafa Khalil, NDP deputy leader and former prime minister, by Ayman al-Sayyad in Cairo; date unspecified]

[Text] [Al-Sayyad] Do you believe Egyptian-Israeli relations will be adversely affected by Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state?

[Khalil] No, on the contrary. The establishment of the Palestinian state was a necessity to establish peace in the region. Resolution No 242, which is fundamental to the peace process, talks only of "states," as it stipulates every state's right to live in security. It says that by accepting the UN Charter the member states are obliged to work according to Article II of the charter.

Clause 2 stipulates the end of the state of war and recognition of the sovereignty and political independence of every state in the region, in addition to the right of all states to live in peace. So the resolution, which the Israelis and the Americans consider a basis for negotiation, only talks of states—which means that the proclamation of the Palestinian state was a necessity. Besides, the Palestinians' declaration of their state is bound to resolve the problem of the clause in Resolution No 242 concerning refugees.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you believe that the Israelis are understanding of the Egyptian step?

[Khalil] Egypt is a sovereign state and has the right to take any position it sees fit. And Israel has no right to object or to ask Egypt not to grant recognition.

[Al-Sayyad] But the Israeli Foreign Ministry summoned the Egyptian ambassador and handed him an official protest.

[Khalil] This is a normal diplomatic procedure. The Israelis have the right to express their opinion. But this does not mean that it will lead to anything.

[Al-Sayyad] Egyptian recognition of the Palestinian state coincided with the Washington tripartite meetings to discuss the Tabah issue. Will this affect the arbitration ruling?

[Khalil] Tabah has nothing to do with this. The ruling was issued and it was final.

[Al-Sayyad] Despite everything, the Egyptian recognition was 5 days late.

[Khalil] The first Egyptian statement announced immediately after the proclamation of the state was appropriate, because we had to wait for the arrival of the official text from Algiers. States' official stands cannot be adopted in response to press or news agency reports. It is known that the Americans too said that they would wait for the text. In complex diplomatic issues, texts, and even single words, are of great importance. For instance, there is a difference between recognizing Resolutions Nos 242 and 388 and saying "we agree to negotiate on the basis of the two resolutions."

[Al-Sayyad] Although Egyptian recognition was granted in the end, it seemed that the state's proclamation came as a surprise to Egyptian diplomacy, which suffered some kind of confusion in its reactions over 5 days. Some people considered these reactions both unclear and conflicting. How do you explain this?

[Khalil] As I said, the question is simply that there was a need to wait for the text in order to study it. The truth is that Egypt immediately supported the Algiers decisions, including the proclamation of the state. I think that this was clear and unambiguous.

[Al-Sayyad] Were there no differences within the Egyptian administration over the response that should have been made to help peace efforts in the region succeed?

[Khalil] Absolutely none.

[Al-Sayyad] Was there not the view that Egyptian recognition of the state would cause Egyptian diplomacy to lose some of its flexibility in dealing with the Israelis and the Americans? Is it not your view?

[Khalil] Certainly not. My experience in negotiations with the Israelis does not prompt such a view. Besides, what is proposed now is an international conference. And there is a question mark over Egypt's participation in the conference. In what capacity will Egypt be invited to that conference? First of all, it is not one of the major powers expected to take part. Second, by signing a treaty with Israel, it is no longer a party to the conflict. And there is now nothing for it to negotiate with Israel.

[Al-Sayyad] Some have hinted at the need to keep the Tabah border problem as a justification for Egyptian presence at the negotiating table.

[Khalil] No. In fact the opposite is the case: When I met with Shim'on Peres recently at the international socialist states conference he affirmed to me the necessity and importance of Egypt's participation in the international conference.

[Al-Sayyad] What will be the scenario of events after the proclamation of the state and Egypt's recognition of it?

[Khalil] We do not interfere in what the Palestinians decide. If they ask Egypt to take part in the negotiations, the two parties will have to reach an understanding over the next steps. But the important thing now is an agreement with Jordan. It is the form, nature, and timing of that agreement which will determine the main features of the next scenario. The major issue now is a confederation, because the Israelis and Americans reject an independent state.

[Al-Sayyad] What step will Egypt take?

[Khalil] Egypt's role is simply that of a catalyst, which is needed in a chemical process but not part of it. It is to try to reconcile the other parties' demands and explain the need for the Americans and the Israelis to reconsider their interpretation of the Palestinian decisions, especially regarding the point that "internal struggle is a legitimate right according to UN principles."

[Al-Sayyad] Is there any hope of the U.S. and Israeli positions' being amended so as to become more positive toward the Algiers decisions and peace efforts in general?

[Khalil] Of course. The uprising will develop and exert more pressure. Furthermore, independent Palestinian administrations will be formed inside [the occupied territories]. All these conditions must push the issue toward peace.

Trade Union Group Urges Support for Palestinians

NC0812190888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—The General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions has called on all Arab workers to renounce attempts to propagate division and disruption, stressing that support for the Palestinian uprising entails the commitment by Arab labor unions to maintain their unity of ranks, decision, and willpower.

In a statement issued today on the 1st anniversary of the uprising, the Federation appealed to labor unions and federations, as well as to all the workers of the world, to work for achieving solidarity and unity of action in order to establish peace in the Middle East, and to take positive stands in defense of the Palestinian workers' rights, which are being usurped by the Israeli occupiers.

The Federation hailed the Palestinian uprising against the repressive and barbaric practices of Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

The Federation asserted that the proclamation of the Palestinian state marks the beginning of a new stage of Palestinian struggle, which calls for escalating and supporting the uprising vis-a-vis Israel's rejection of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

The statement notes that the U.S. Administration's intransigent stand toward Yasir 'Arafat violates international law and the Headquarters' treaty. Contrary to the wishes of the U.S. Administration, the statement adds, this position has exposed the Palestinian stand to light and clarified its peaceful orientation to the whole world. The unprecedented world support has served the Palestinian cause in the international arena, the statement says.

In conclusion, the statement says that the U.S. stand has made that country lose credibility when talking of its efforts to hold an international peace conference and when describing itself as a neutral party to the peace process.

Interior Minister on Drug Trafficking

JN0812173488 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 6 Dec 88 p 11

[Interview with Interior Minister Zaki Badr by Muhammad Mustafa in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mustafa] How do you explain the growing number of addicts despite your vigorous drive to combat drugs?

[Badr] This is a worldwide problem afflicing countries in the East and West. [passage omitted]

We have a powerful antidrug unit, the efficacy of which has been attested worldwide and by the UN agency specializing in fighting drugs. We do not just seize narcotics coming into our country but intercept those in transit to Europe and America. I can cite many instances. We have seized at least 20 hauls in transit, the largest being the recent "Rigo Start," which had 4 tonnes of opium, approximately 300 kg of heroin, and 2 tonnes of hashish. Two tonnes of hashish and half a tonne of opium were intended for the Egyptian market, the rest for neighboring countries to be re-exported to Europe and America. Egypt has bettered the average world success rate in intercepting contraband drugs.

According to UN statistics, an average of 10 percent of drugs intended to be smuggled into a given country are seized. In other words, when 1 tonne is discovered, 9 tonnes will have entered the country. As for Egypt, as much as 60-65 percent of such drugs as hashish are intercepted. Around this time last year—5 October 1987—we seized 18 tonnes of hashish hidden in the water tank of a vessel named "Star." The antinarcotics department had tracked the operation from the production source in Beirut until it arrived in Egypt aboard a Greek vessel. We had been tipped months in advance; an operation on such a scale requires contacts with producers and other measures.

We monitored every move of the operation from the time it was first put aboard a Turkish ship through its transference to a larger vessel up to its interception at

Port Said. That marked the largest haul in the history of Egyptian drug combat. We scored other subsequent successes, including the seizure of a Turkish boat carrying 1 and ½ tonnes of hashish about 14 months ago. Its crew of three Turks and one Lebanese was armed. The vessel was caught in Egyptian territorial waters in an operation coordinated with the Navy and Border Guard, which we regard as the forward defense line. [passage omitted]

Last year, we seized a load of hashish originating in Beirut and stored after arrival in Wadi Hazzul in Mount 'Annaqah [placenames as published] approximately 80 km from Suez. It was 7.248 tonnes. One of the smugglers then stole 150 kg. We received a tip that he had hidden it in his home, which we then searched. Having found nothing there, we used police dogs that led us to a tile-topped cache below the house. When we say we seize from 60 to 65 percent of smuggled drugs, we support our claim with actual examples. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] Have the emergency laws proved helpful in fulfilling your tasks?

[Badr] Undoubtedly we use it in our operations against drug traffickers. The emergency laws have acted as something of a deterrent. I would emphasize, though, that the emergency laws only just help and do not count for much. Under the emergency laws, a detainee is entitled to submit a challenge within 15 days and security authorities have to accept or reject it.

On the whole, a drug trafficker is not held for more than 1 and ½ months. Drug traffickers are aware of this and that at most they will serve no more than 1 or 1 and ½ months in detention. Some are released within days of their arrest and go out to resume their trafficking. Thus the emergency laws are not much of a deterrent.

[Mustafa] Are you counseling a more rigorous application of the emergency laws, or would you like to see exceptions made in drug trafficking cases?

[Badr] I would want convictions to be applied more extensively. I want capital punishment to be invoked and the executions carried out in public both for smugglers and producers. This is because a murderer must be executed. In common crimes, a killer murders one person; a hard drug smuggler kills thousands of people. [passage omitted]

Libya

Joint Commission With Tunisia Meets on Arab Unity

LD0812163288 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The Joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian Higher Commission last night crowned its fourth session with the signing of the minutes of the session. These included the consolidation of undivided integration between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Tunisia in the various arenas as an embodiment of the unitary march toward integration and the building of an Arab Maghreb without borders and, ultimately, the achievement of total Arab unity.

The minutes of the meeting were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee in the Great Jamahiriyah and Brother Hedi Baccouche, prime minister of fraternal Tunisia, in the presence of the members of the General People's Committee and the Council of Ministers in fraternal Tunisia.

Brother Hedi Baccouche emphasized that this gathering constitutes a step toward the building of unity and a model for the unity of the countries of the Arab maghreb on the path of total Arab unity. He stressed that the results will be strengthened with the support and direction of the two countries' leaders. In this respect, he expressed his hope that these results would be up to the expectations of the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

Egyptian Airspace Opening May Help Mend Ties

PM0812152188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 88 p1

[Talhah Jibril report: "Libyan Sources Confirm to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Contacts With Egypt Are Continuing Under Al-Qadhdhafi's Personal Supervision"]

[Excerpts] Rabat—Libyan sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that they appreciate Egypt's decision to open its airspace to Libyan planes but added that there has been nothing new regarding relations between the two countries. Apart from Egypt's continued recognition of Israel, they said, there are no problems between Egypt and Libya.

The sources confirmed contacts between the two sides but declined to give any details.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources have emphasized that Egyptian-Libyan contacts have not stopped since 1977, when diplomatic relations between the two countries were severed, but these contacts have produced no tangible results.

Observers believe that Egypt's decision to open its airspace to Libyan aircraft is a step which should be followed by bigger steps on both sides to mend the deteriorating relations between them.

According to information received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from informed sources, the contacts with Egypt have mainly been carried out by three figures who are: Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, an adviser of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; 'Abd al-Fattah Yunis, a member of the original free officers cell and commander of the western military zone; and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaybi.

Several unannounced meetings have recently been held between the two sides in Cairo, Tripoli, and some other capitals. The contacts and mediations have resulted in suspension of Libya's media campaign against Egypt and the opening of Egyptian space to the Libyans in response to the Libyan move.

The [Egyptian] decision, however, will not solve the problem of Egyptians working in Libya, estimated at 5,000 workers, because opening the airspace and allowing Libyan planes to land at Cairo airport when necessary does not mean transporting travelers.

The Egyptians working in Libya at present move between the two countries via Malta. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that when Chairman al-Qadhdhafi decided to assign Arab relations duties to members of the Revolution Command Council he excluded Egypt from the decision, which means that he will personally be in charge of Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Official on Prospects of Ties With Egypt

JN0912101088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Dec (WAKH)—A Libyan official has lauded the recent positive developments in relations between his country and Egypt. He said that despite the political diffrences between the two countries, there is a possibility of creating forms of detente and cooperation between them.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwwi, Libya's ambassador to Morocco, asserted that the next few days will witness further positive developments in Egyptian-Libyan relations, including the opening of borders and resumption of air flights. He stressed the interest of the two countries' leaders in ending the estrangement between them.

The Libyan ambassador revealed that the Egyptian and Libyan presidents have agreed to hold high-level meetings between officials from the two countries. These meetings will include a meeting between Egyptian Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and Libyan Armed Forces Commander Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis and another meeting between Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libya's Arab League representative.

Greece Deports Jailed Palestinian to Libya

NC0712130388 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1130 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Greek authorities have deported Usamah 'Abd al-Zummar, a Palestinian who had been jailed since 1982, to Libya. The Italian authorities have accused him of being involved in an attack against a synagogue in Rome in 1982. A 2-year-old child was killed and 30 people were injured in the attack.

The Italian authorities demanded Al-Zumar's extradition from Greece but, as Minister of Justice Vasilis Rotis has stated, the Palestinian was deported to a country of his choice because his action was the result of his struggle for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Morocco

'Authorized Source' on U.S. Plane Downing

LD0812234288 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Dec

[Text] It has been learned from an authorized source that, as part of the effort to fight locusts in Morocco, the U.S. Agency for International Development hired two DC-7 civilian aircraft which were stationed in Dakar. In the early hours of this morning, the two aircraft received orders from the Agency for International Development to fly to Agadir. At the end of the morning and at the time when the two aircraft were flying at an altitude of about 10,000 or 11,000 feet in an international flight corridor above the town of Bir Moghrein in Mauritania, surface-to-air missiles were fired at them, according to preliminary information.

One of the aircraft exploded in the air after it was hit while the second, which was hit a few seconds after that, was able to continue its flight at low altitude until it landed at Sidi Ifni airfield in Morocco. The aircraft crew, which is composed of six men, was received by the local authorities which accompanied them to Agadir. An investigation has begun.

2d Pilot's Statement

LD0912135088 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 9 Dec 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Rabat, Dec 9 (MAP)—A civilian DC-7 chartered by the U.S. Agency for International Development to assist in the anti-locust struggle was hit Thursday morning by a ground-to-air missile while flying over the Mauritanian locality of Bir Moghrein, authorized sources here indicated. The plane exploded in full flight, according to the testimony of the pilot of another plane that was also hit by a missile but that succeeded to land at Sidi Ifni, Morocco.

Upon landing at Sidi Ifni, the pilot of the second plane made the following statement, "Today, December 8, 1988, in the context of the anti-locust struggle, we have been ordered to fly our planes "DC-7" to Agadir, southern Morocco.

We left Dakar at 7.30 a.m. The flight schedule was as follows: Dakar, Saint-Louis, Atar, Zouirat, Bir Moghrein, Iched, and Agadir. It is an internationally recognized airway. At about 10.45 a.m., I saw the first plane's right engine on fire.

I immediately informed the chief pilot of the plane (No 284) that was preceding me by about 1.5 mile. He answered me that he knew it and at that time started losing altitude. I saw the right wing breaking off and 30 seconds later my own plane was hit at the left engine. I had time to see the DC-7 No 284 explode. I succeeded to carry on my flight by changing the direction and skirting the Atlantic coast to land at Sidi Ifni at 0.52 pm. All the persons aboard my plane are safe". According to the spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, investigations were conducted to clarify the incident.

Tunisia

President Meets 'Arafat at Writers' Conference

LD0812214988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today opened the eighth conference of Asian and African intellectuals and writers at the Palace of Conferences. The conference, hosted by Tunisia, is being held 8-13 December. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was welcomed by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Culture Minister Habib Boulares.

President Ben Ali addressed warm greetings to Abu Ammar ['Arafat] and blessed the proclamation of the Palestinian state. He stressed Tunisia's pride in receiving the intellectuals and writers among the sons of Africa and Asia, and explained that their meeting within the framework of their organization, the Union of Writers of Africa and Asia, is proof of the deep feeling of closeness between the peoples of the two continents. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat thanked President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Tunisia for their protection and for their support for the Palestinian revolution. He pointed out that the conference is held during the celebrations of the first anniversary of the courageous uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands. He stressed this is not a coincidence, because the writers of Asia and Africa were and are still the free pen which is defending freedom against oppression and racism in Namibia and South Africa. The writers stand at the side of the Palestinian revolution, which steadfastly continues its uprising and today enters its 2d year.

The Palestinian leader recalled his recent successful visit to Sweden, and the contacts he had with members of the Middle East Center for Peace, who are American Jews. He considered that the statements issued following these contacts show they understand the PNC resolutions. 'Arafat stressed the attachment of the Palestinian revolution and people to a peace based on justice, and to legitimate political and national rights, foremost among which are self-determination, and the setting up of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi Makes Arrival Statement

LD0812154788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1304 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Statement by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Libyan leader, on his arrival at Tunis Airport—live]

[Text] I am very happy to meet my brother President Zine El Abidine and the brothers in Tunisia. I carry heartfelt warm greetings from their brothers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. This meeting is (?definitely) not one between foreign countries, and I do not feel as though I am the guest of another state. This is a meeting between the sons of one family and between beloved brothers. When we meet here it entails good for our two countries, for our Great Arab Maghreb, and for our Arab nation. We are waging a battle against the various challenges facing the Arab nation. While we are leading and waging this battle it is necessary for us to meet on a continuing basis to administer the struggle in the interest of the Arab nation.

Meets With President, 'Arafat

LD0912012888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] A meeting was held last evening [8 December] at the guest house in Carthage attended by President Zine El Abidine Bel Ali, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

President Hosts Banquet

LD0912001488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic this evening gave a banquet in the guest house in Carthage in honor of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. The banquet was attended by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. It was also attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Mr 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi exchanged speeches. President Ben Ali said: About 1 year ago, a short time after the events of 7 November, we decided to normalize our relations with our sister country the Jamahiriyah because after a long period of hesitation and doubt, they had reached the

point of rupture, which made our Tunisian and Libyan peoples miss opportunities, and obstructed integration and impeded solidarity between them.

We in Tunisia believed it necessary to overcome past obstacles because we believe that seriousness and duty make it imperative for us to deal with the present and look to the future—to serve the interests of our two peoples and to realize their invulnerability.

President Ben Ali said: We have found in you, Brother Colonel, all preparedness and response, and have found in the fraternal Libyan people, and saw during our visit to your country, an overwhelming enthusiasm and a sincere determination to engage in this correct line, which is aimed at strengthening solidarity and integration between the two fraternal peoples. It is a move toward the great steps we intend to make together to build the greater Arab Maghreb, and a pan-Arab, cohesive Arab nation.

Your own preparedness, Brother Colonel, and your relations with us indicate your diligent endeavor and your eager insistence on realizing a rapprochement between brothers. You have proposed several formulae for brotherhood, solidarity, and for bringing about a unified language in the Arab nation, and take a relentless interest in serving the causes of this nation, and the causes of liberation in general. It is from this point of view that your appreciation for the change in Tunisia stems, because you rightly saw in it a serious beginning of unity between the two fraternal peoples and the Arab nation.

The president said: Events bring Tunisia and the Jamahiriyah close, not farther apart; they unify not divide. This rapprochement began earlier and today is clearer and stronger. Despite the improvement in our relations and the importance of what we did to strengthen them, we believe they still require our interest and care so we may respond to the aspirations of our two peoples in the framework of well prepared programs and reasonable stages that harmonize between realizing what is possible and asking for what is desired. We are striving along this line to build a model for the sound building of Maghreb unity, heralding overall Arab unity.

Bahrain

Paper Interviews Amir on Egypt, Other Issues

JN0412160788 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 3 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah by Mahmud al-Sa'dani in Manama—date not given]

[Text] Question: Your Highness, the Arab people of Egypt look forward to seeing you and are expecting you at the end of this year.

The Amir: Egypt is always in our hearts, and we are always with Egypt. Throughout our history, intimate and cordial relations never ceased. We do not forget that the Arab nation, especially Bahrain, is indebted to Egypt. We were educated by Egyptians and our sons were educated at Egyptian universities. It is only deniers who disclaim Egypt.

Question: Why is your meeting with President Husni Mubarak scheduled for the end of the year?

The Amir: Our relations with Egypt are strong. President Husni Mubarak is an honorable brother and dear friend. We are in constant touch on all issues of interest to our two countries and our Arab nation. My visit to Egypt is on schedule, but the time is determined by circumstances. As you know, Bahrain celebrates its national day in the middle of December. Also, Bahrain is fortunate to host the GCC summit this year.

Question: When do you expect to visit Cairo?

The Amir: I think we will visit Cairo at the beginning of next year, God willing, in order to meet His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and have the pleasure of meeting the noble Egyptian people.

Question: How does Your Highness view the current Arab situation and the future?

The Amir: The current Arab situation is better than before. Egypt is returning to the big family after past circumstances imposed situations of benifit to no one. But, thank God, things have now improved and are getting even better. I hope that in the near future, everything will be as desired. We are confident that we are moving along this road. The recent restoration of official relations between Egypt and the Arab countries and the exchange of ambassadors constitute a step toward unifying Arab ranks in the interest of Arab issues. I pray that God will help our nation achieve its righteous unity.

Question: What do you think of the declaration of the Palestinian state?

The Amir: We support all stands of our Palestinian brothers. The declaration of the Palestinian state is a step toward realizing the Palestinian dream of a state, identity, and flag—like all peoples on earth. It is also an opportunity to solve the long-standing Middle East problem. If the PLO took steps toward peace, the other side should show the same desire, and the superpowers should help bring about a just and comprehensive solution to the problem.

Question: Your Highness, what is your opinion of Egypt's recognition of the state of Palestine?

The Amir: This was expected from Egypt, the eldest sister. Egypt is always the vanguard of the Arab nation. President Mubarak is an Arab leader who never failed to adopt great positions in the interest of the Arab nation. He is an evenhanded statesman, but he places Arab interests above everything. His stand on the Gulf war was the stand of an Arab leader who cares about the interests of his nation and joins it in times of hardship. He, therefore, unequivocally determined his stand on the Gulf war by standing in the trench of Arabism.

Question: Your Highness, Yasir 'Arafat has visited you. Have you discussed with him specific issues concerning the next Palestinian moves?

The Amir: Whenever Brother 'Arafat or any other Arab leader visits us, he actually visits his country and his people. 'Arafat's visit provided us with the opportunity to discuss the results of the declaration of the Palestinian state. It also helped me know the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the latest developments of the Palestinian uprising.

Question: Your Highness, regarding the situation in the Gulf, are you optimistic? What about the Iraq-Iran war?

The Amir: Thank God the war is over. Both sides have good intentions. I think that all issues will be solved in the interest of all parties, because we are of the same religion and have common interests. Only the enemies of Arabs and Islam benefit from our disagreements.

Question: What does Your Highness expect from the forthcoming GCC summit?

The Amir: The GCC summit always seeks the interest of the region and the welfare of all Arabs. Since the GCC was established, we have achieved a great deal for the region. Through coordinating stands, we reached a great deal in all fields. The GCC summit is a meeting between brothers who always discuss the arrangement of the internal Gulf house with extreme love, amity and desire for reform. In the past, we accomplished great things in all fields. The next GCC summit will crown the achievements of the past and draw up a working plan for the next stage.

Question: What about disagreements between Bahrain and Qatar over the islands of Hawar, Al-Zubarah, and Fasht al-Dibal?

The Amir: There is no unresolvable disagreement between Bahrain and Qatar. We are one country, bound by love and sincerity and have common interests.

Question: Your Highness, are you optimistic about the Palestine question during the term of George Bush?

The Amir: I think that Bush understands the Middle East question very well due to his presence at the top of the authority over the past years.

Question: What about current and future economic problems of the Gulf and the Arab region at large?

The Amir: We, God willing, are heading toward economic boom, especially since the Gulf war is over and Egypt returned to the Arab nation. I hope that problems in our region will end and that the Lebanese and Palestinian problems will be solved, with the Palestinians having a state. When this is hopefully achieved, we will all prosper and happiness will overwhelm the nation from the Gulf to the ocean.

Question: Your Highness, can I say that your visit to Cairo will take place in January?

The Amir: Everything is done according to God's will. God willing, I will be among my kinfolk and in my country, Egypt, at the beginning of next year.

Saudi Arabia

Spokesman Says Riyadh Arab Summit 'Imminent'

LD0812160088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1412 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Dec (SPA)—To clarify some Arab and Western news reports media concerning the convening of the ordinary Arab summit conference in Riyadh, an official source told SPA today that some Arab and Western sources have recently indicated that the next Arab summit conference in Riyadh is imminent. On the other hand, some who ignore the truth have expressed doubts about the Kingdom's will to convene the conference.

The source added that in order to prevent this issue from being tackled without a clear perception of realities, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to reiterate its strong endeavor and firm resolve to convene the ordinary Arab summit conference in Riyadh as soon as it is fully convinced that the Arab atmosphere is appropriate for convening the conference—so that its aims can be achieved and its objectives successful—and after it has made sure that its convening will benefit the Arab nation and serve its fateful issues.

The source continued: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, is continuing and intensifying its efforts in conformity with the tasks entrusted to it by the leaders of the sisterly Arab countries and implementation of the principles and foundations upon which the next Arab summit conference will be based within the framework of the prerequisites of the success that is aspired to. [sentence as received]

The source concluded his statment saying: As for the convening of an extraordinary Arab summit conference to which the Kingdom is called to study Arab developments and have consultations about them, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has previously informed his excellency the secretary general of the Arab League that the Kingdom will always be pleased to attend any meeting which serves the Arab interests at any time and in any place, and today it reiterates this stand to all. May this frank clarification help stop spurious remarks which have no bearing on reality.

Yemen Arab Republic

Iraq's Ramadan Delivers Message to President

JN0812161388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office today Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister in fraternal Iraq, who conveyed to the president a message from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on current developments in both Arab and international arenas. The message also deals with the enhancement of Arab solidarity and ways to effect a unified Arab stand to support the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. This stand will help them continue escalating their sweeping popular revolution against the Zionist occupation in the occupied Arab land under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, attain their inalienable national rights, and stress their will through the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The message also addresses the Lebanese arena.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan briefed the brother president on the progress of the ongoing Iraq-Iran negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive peace between the two countries according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Discussion revolved around bilateral relations and continued consultations between the two political leaderships in both fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; and Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member. Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Sanaa at 1230 today. He was welcomed by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, and head of the Central Planning Organ; ministers; and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan made a statement to SABA' news agency explaining that he carries a message to Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother, President Saddam Husayn, on the continuation of coordination and consultations on bilateral relations and the Arab situation. He said that our Arab nation is now experiencing a delicate stage which urgently needs coordination and consultations among Arab leaders to enable them to confront challenges.

Military Official Analyzes New Israeli Satellite

JN0812125388 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 88 p 3

[Article by Staff Major General 'Ala' al-Din Husayn Makki Khammas: "The Iraqi Missile and the Zionist Satellite—the Reply and the Challenge"]

[Excerpts] 1. The Zionist entity launched a satellite named "Ofeq-1" into orbit around the earth on 19 September 1988. This development generated clamor and newspaper comments. Some of them exaggerated the event and gave it far more importance than it deserves; others underestimated it. Most articles and statements were void of accurate scientific analysis and resorted to sensationalism in covering the news.

The Zionist entity claimed it launched this satellite to obtain information on the Arab countries—information it could not obtain from its allies when needed. It is well known its allies have satellites that are continuously orbiting the region and that they are supplying the Zionist entity with the information it needs, and it has no difficulty in this regard. What is the reason then? This is what we will try to find out in this article.

2. There is no doubt that the launching of this satellite is considered a scientific and technological accomplishment which should be admitted. The ability of the party launching it, even if it is an enemy, should also be admitted. What is important is to analyze this accomplishment and know its reasons and possible results in a quiet manner in order to work out the best methods to confront or react to it. Accordingly, I preferred to wait all this time before writing this article in the hope of shedding some light on the event and its reasons and future results in a bid to know what can be done toward it in terms of duty and preference.

3. Perhaps the success of the military industrialization in the Iraq of Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, in launching the Al-Faw-1 missile is one of the most important measures that can be taken to confront this satellite. We will try to explain this in this article. [passage omitted]

What does this satellite mean and what are our conclusions about its real capabilities according to the abovementioned facts? At first we should divide our analysis into the following:

a. Matters related to the satellite itself technically and practically (strategically if the term applies) regarding its use.

b. Matters related to the missile which launched it into space.

Regarding the technical aspect of this satellite, we note the following:

1. It is carrying a camera weighing 3 kg only. This means this camera is small in size and has, therefore, a small lens diameter. Hence, detection of targets will be poor. It is, therefore, unfit for military purposes at present.

2. It revolves round itself once every second. Therefore, the pictures taken will be in different directions every time. Therefore, it will not be possible to fix the precise coordinates of the photographed region, and consequently, it will be difficult to recognize it. Once the difficulty of recognizing the photographed targets is added, the first conclusion will be corroborated. Thus, it is difficult to use the information militarily at this stage.

3. It generates 246 watts—insufficient to provide any jamming or electronic war equipment on board with the required energy to electronically jam the Arab military telecommunications when orbiting over Arab countries. Moreover, its orbit of the earth once every 99 minutes or so means that it will not be over a fixed point. Consequently, it will be able to jam telecommunications (if we suppose it can do so) only for a very limited period of time—the time of its flight over that country or that battlefield. The same applies to the recording of calls (if we suppose it can do so, although we do not believe so).

4. The presence of a computer and a memory in it means that it can store the acquired information and relay it when flying over occupied Palestine in the form of a single pulse received by the ground control station.

5. The way it is designed does not enable the ground station to control its orbit or direction because it is in a fixed orbit. Therefore, it is currently useless for military purposes.

With regard to the orbit and its direction, analysis leads us to the following:

1. The launching of the satellite toward the West reflects a desire to avoid it being observed by the Arab countries to the east of occupied Palestine in the first stages of launching. It also reflects the possibility of benefitting from the ground control and follow-up stations affiliated with the allies of the Zionist entity from NATO or the United States located in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean. This refutes the Zionists' claim that they launched this satellite by themselves and with their own intrinsic efforts without assistance from anybody.

2. The direction of the satellite orbit causes it to move over north Africa—that is, the Arab Maghreb countries—first; over Iraq, Jordan, and Syria; and then over the Zionist entity. This means that the information it obtains on the Arab eastern region will be more recent than what it obtains on the Arab Maghreb states. This is because the Zionist entity will receive the information about the Arab Maghreb after 99 minutes, which is the time it takes to orbit the earth. Meanwhile, the information on the Arab eastern region will reach the Zionist entity within a few minutes.

Therefore, we can conclude that the interest in launching this satellite is focused on the Arab east, particularly the Iraqi state. If we link the date of launching the satellite, 19 September 1988, with the date of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, 8 August 1988—a few weeks before the launching—the hysteria that hit the Zionist entity after this, and its fear of Iraq's strength in the wake of the war, we can conclude that this entity wants to raise its people's morale and undermine ours, at this time in particular, through this accomplishment, which was not a coincidence but was accurately calculated.

The launcher rocket is as important as the launching of the satellite, if not more important. As we have said, the rocket that can carry 156 kg and place it into orbit at such an altitude can strike any target in any Arab or regional country if this load is replaced by a traditional or nuclear weapon for example. This is the real threat. If we link this explicitly-announced capability with the Zionist entity's nuclear capabilities that are announced in a twisted manner we can say that the Zionist has become a regional nuclear power. Therefore, what should we do? The great danger comes from this, not from the satellite which certainly constitutes less danger.

On this basis we can conclude the following:

A. The Zionist satellite, "Ofeq-1" is an experimental satellite for scientific purposes and cannot presently be used for military purposes. However, it can be used for military purposes in the future. This requires, as of now, thoughts about passive and active preventive methods to diminish the data which this or future satellites would obtain while passing over Iraq.

B. The launching of this satellite at this particular time aims at affecting the morale of the Arab people in general and the Iraqi people in particular. It also aims at raising the morale of the Zionists and their allies. This requires alertness and knowledge of the satellite's real capabilities without exaggeration or disregard.

C. The launching of this satellite was not the result of Zionist efforts only, but also through their allies' assistance in terms of efforts, experience, and funds. This means that the scientific gap between the Zionists and the Arabs is narrowing, particularly if we consider the developing Iraqi scientific and military industrial potentials represented by the military industrialization.

D. The launching of this satellite indicates a Zionist desire to maintain technological superiority over the Arabs. It also indicates that the Zionists do not hesitate to enter all fields. It also affirms their possession of the advanced technological basis. This requires us to exert giant efforts to end this situation and proceed toward acquiring technological superiority.

E. The launching of this satellite with a long-range rocket and with such an orbit and direction means that it is capable of hitting any Arab target with a destructive warhead, which this rocket may be equipped with. This calls on us to obtain means to destroy these rockets, either when they are in their silos or on their launching pads, or after they are launched against their targets in order to prevent them from hitting these targets, so that we can deprive the Zionist entity the benefit of having these potentials.

Now after this satellite, its potentials, and its true capabilities—which constitute a scientific and operational (even future military) challenge to the Arabs—have been analyzed, what must be done about it?

There are some who say that the answer must be for the Arabs to launch their satellite. However, if we rule out the scientific meaning of such an act, the military benefit of it in the field of direct confrontation and its effects on the Zionist entity will be limited due to the smallness of the Zionist entity's geographic size. Therefore, the need to use a satellite to collect data about it may not be that urgent. Also, such a launching will not lessen the effect of the Zionist satellite against us.

There are some who say that we must find a way to manufacture a killer satellite to fight this Zionist satellite. This may be possible in the future, but things are discussed in, and linked to their times.

Also, there are some who call for following passive protective methods to prevent the Zionist satellite from achieving its mission and obtaining the data for which it was launched, if not now, then in the future. This can be done by beginning now to prepare the possible field of operations and by using instruments and means of communications that can not be subjected to distortion and monitoring. Also by finding means of camouflage and distortion against these satellites and by the use of all means that will lessen its effects.

However, if we treat the satellite like this and prevented it from collecting the data or from distorting, then the more effective threat from it is the possibility of delivering destructive weapons against Arab targets. In the previous analysis, we reached the conclusion that this is the most dangerous threat now and in the future. This danger is represented by the launcher rocket which has not been discussed in the proposals for confrontation that were made before. Therefore, the answer to this challenge is to obtain a capability to destroy these rockets, and also the other weapon delivery means which were referred to. This is possible through two means: To destroy them on their sites before being launched—that is in their silos, on their launching pads, or in the airports (for the airplanes)—or to destroy them after they are launched. For airplanes, the Air Force and Air Defense can do this, but as for rockets after they are launched, this can be done by an anti-missile missile.

This is what Iraq has actually done, under the leadership of its great knight Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, and his sons in the military industrialization, by

building the Al-Faw-1, which succeeded in destroying medium-range surface-to-surface missiles, as we have seen on television screens. This is the answer to the challenge which the Zionists made against the great victorious Iraq. If they intended to say that they have long-range missiles that can hit the Arabs and Iraq, then Iraq can destroy these missiles while they are in the air and turn their spite against them.

This is a message that all Iraq's enemies understand. Also, by manufacturing these missiles with its own resources, Iraq undoubtedly can, if it wishes, launch a satellite. Certainly, as long as Iraq is led by the nation's leader and knight, Saddam Husayn, and as long as it has such glorious sons, nothing is impossible for it and its capabilities except what is in God's power. However, matters will be discussed at their proper time.

Ramadan Returns From Arab Tour, Makes Statement

JN0812193588 Baghdad INA in English 1855 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 8, INA—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier returned here this evening winding up a visit to Bahrain, Qatar and Yemen Arab Republic.

In a statement to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA), Mr Ramadan said he had conveyed verbal mesages from President Saddam Husayn to Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani Amir of Qatar, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen Arab Republic dealing with developed relations and confirming Iraq's desire for enhancing and raising them to an advanced level.

He added that he had acquainted the brethren leaders in Bahrain Qatar and Yemen Arab Republic with developments of the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, the twisted ways the Iranian officials are following in them and confirmation of Iraq's clear, firm and principled attitude toward the just and comprehensive peace.

He also clarified that he discussed the current Arab situation and the necessity of the serious and continued action, through coordination, consultation and continual meetings, with the aim of discussing matters of interest of the Arab nation and finding the serious and quick means for preserving unity of her countries and rejection of intereference in internal affairs among the Arab countries as that poses threats to the unified Arab attitude.

Saddam Chairs Joint RCC-Ba'th Party Talks

JN0412191788 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and Ba'th Party Regional Command this evening. Current political and Arab issues were discussed.

Ba'th Party Source Cited on Election Prospects

PM0212115888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic1 Dec 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Parliamentary Elections in Iraq in 4 Months"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A well-informed source close to the national command of the ruling party in Iraq, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has emphasized that President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow party pluralism was originally made nearly 2 years ago, but war conditions prevented its implementation. [passage omitted]

The source said that the party pluralism decision is based on allowing the formation of new parties in Iraq—which will perform their activities freely—and allowing the present parties—which operate secretly—to resume their activities openly and without restrictions. Party organizations and activities will face no obstacles, but there will be no indifference or leniency toward anyone who cooperated with Iran during the war—that is, agents and spies.

The source believes that general elections will be held in Iraq before 7 April on the basis of the present election law, with emphasis on free competition, so that at least two candidates will compete for every seat in the National Assembly or the People's Councils (local councils.) The other parties will have the right to compete with the candidate of the ruling Ba'th Party in all constituencies and at all levels.

'Raid' Made Into Lebanon; Clash With Syria Denied

TA0912111288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Military sources and the Army spokesman are reluctant at this time to give further details about the raid into Lebanon or about the rescue operation that concluded it; however, they deny reports from Lebanon of military clashes involving Israeli and Syrian forces. As of now, all Israeli personnel are back in Israel and the operation is at an end. More details from the Israeli side can be expected later today.

1 Killed, 3 Wounded in Raid

TA0912094688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] An IDF officer was killed in an IDF raid on terrorist bases in Lebanon last night. Our correspondent 'Amos Har'el has the initial details:

[Begin Har'el recording] Following is the statement issued by the IDF spokesman a few minutes ago:

A combined IDF naval, land, and air force last night raided bases and commands belonging to Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC in the Al-Na'imah area northeast of Al-Damur in Lebanon. An IDF officer, Lieutenant Colonel Amir Meytal, was killed in the battle, and three soldiers were wounded. Several targets and commands of this organization were damaged, and several casualties were inflicted on the terrorists. As said, an IDF officer, Lt Col Amir Meytal, was killed in the battle, and three soldiers were wounded. [end recording]

4 Missing Soldiers Rescued

TA0912105688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Report by 'Amos Har'el]

[Excerpts] Four IDF soldiers were separated from the main force in the course of the IDF's battle in southern Lebanon early this morning and were rescued in a daring operation. These soldiers returned to Israeli territory a few hours after the rest of their comrades. [passage omitted]

Helicopters were used to evacuate the IDF soldiers from the area. During the course of the evacuation, conducted at dawn this morning, it transpired that four soldiers from the force were missing. These soldiers were rescued in a daring operation, with the assistance of Air Force helicopters. [passage omitted]

Shomron: Operation 'Successful'

TA0912131488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Dec

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that despite the heavy price paid by the death of Lieutenant Colonel Amir Meytal, last night's operation in Lebanon was successful and with time it will show further results.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Shomron added that in the war against terrorism there is no choice but to act in several different ways.

Labor Votes for Launching Talks With Likud

TA0812184188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1807 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran]

[Excerpts] This happened much faster than we had anticipated. The vote counting is completed, and these are the results: 638 voted for the proposal, 349 voted against. The results show that about two thirds of the central committee members voted for launching negotiations with the Likud for the establishment of a broad-based government. [passage omitted]

It is also important to note that the negotiations with the Likud will be under the terms proposed by the Likud, but will be also subject to all the nays voiced here tonight. Rabin, for instance, said tonight: We will not sit in a government with the radical right-wing parties. Shim'on Peres said: We will not sit on a government which intends to pour 1 billion shekels into the religious parties. All this, however, will be part of the negotiations.

It is important to note that the Alignment will join coalition negotiations on the terms offered by the Likud prior to last week's events. These terms are as follows: A no-rotation government, equal number of ministers, parity in the Inner Cabinet, and two out of the three senior portfolios. Of these, the Foreign and Treasury portfolios have been mentioned. [passage omitted]

Likud Approves Negotiations With Alignment

TA0912085788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Likud is launching negotiations with the Alignment on the establishment of a broad-based government. The Likud ministers decided on this in a meeting which ended in Jerusalem a few minutes ago. We are turning to our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem:

Good morning. As the situation now stands, the prime minister's and foreign minister's offices are supposed to coordinate a meeting between Shamir and Peres so that

orderly Likud-Alignment negotiations on the establishment of a broad-based government can be opened. This was decided by the Likud ministers, who left the meeting a few minutes ago.

The negotiations with the ultraorthodox, right-wing parties are continuing at the moment. The Likud negotiations team is now meeting with the National Religious Party and is slated to meet with Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatora representatives later. The question of whether there will be any significance to conclusions reached with them today remains open, but, in the meantime, we at the Prime Minister's Office are waiting to see whether the meeting between the prime minister and vice prime minister will indeed take place within a few hours.

Likud, Tehiya Sign Coalition Agreement
TA0812150888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] At noon today, Prof Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya signed the terms of the coalition agreement with the Likud's negotiating team. According to the agreement, Ne'eman will be appointed minister of science and energy and will head the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, while Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen will be appointed a deputy minister. Tehiya was also promised that 40 new settlements would be established in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the next 4 years. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the National Religious Party will probably also sign the agreement drafted with the Likud this evening.

National Religious Party Joins Likud Coalition
TA0912115288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] has signed a coalition agreement with the Likud. According to the agreement, the budget of the Religious Affairs Ministry will be made equal to the budgets of other ministries. The issue of settlements will not be discussed in the Inner Cabinet, and both parties will consult on all political subjects.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Finance Minister Moshe Nisim refused to sign the agreement, claiming it will cause budgetary difficulties, and left the negotiations. The NRP, therefore, demanded that the prime minister sign the agreement. Mr Shamir, however, only supplied a letter confirming the agreement, as is his practice. Minister Ari'el Sharon attacked Nisim's departure, calling it cowardly. At this hour a discussion is being held between Likud and Agudat Yisra'el teams toward possibly signing an agreement.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 9 December adds that one of the main points of the agreement is that "the NRP will not join a government unless it is led by the Likud".]

Agudat Yisra'el Wins 'Promise' on Law of Return
TA0912132788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has also signed a coalition agreement with the Likud. The agreement was initialed, and includes a promise to amend the Law of Return within 1 and ½ months of the formation of the government. Agudat Yisra'el will get two portfolios: Labor and Social Affairs, and a special ministry for Jerusalem affairs and for special matters that would deal with, among other things, traffic accidents. According to the agreement, funds for ultraorthodox schools and yeshivas have been agreed on as well.

Shamir Hopes To Present Government 'Next Week'
TA0912080588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the prime minister's residence and Razi Barqay in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Barqay] Mr Shamir, in the previous round of talks you offered Labor leaders two of the three major portfolios. We all know about the defense portfolio issue. Are you going to leave the appointments to the Labor leaders or do you prefer them to have this or that portfolio?

[Shamir] Both sides will participate in the decisions.

[Ben-'Ami] How about the rotation issue which the Labor Party mentioned before and may raise again in today's negotiations?

[Shamir] I believe that we will not discuss this issue. In any case, this is out of the question.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, about the political process: This issue was raised in speeches made in the Alignment Central Committee yesterday, where everybody in fact said that Labor is joining the broad-based government in order to lead a political process. What political process do you foresee undertaking with the Labor Party?

[Shamir] The first issue on our negotiations agenda will be an agreement on the government's guidelines. These guidelines will represent the government's political plan. We have said that the guidelines of this government will be very similar to those of the outgoing government. This should give an idea of their content.

[Ben-'Ami] Over the past few weeks we have asked you about the distribution of portfolios among the Likud ministers. If Labor joins in, a new situation is created, while in fact your domestic matters have not been straightened out.

[Shamir] It is obvious that we have not yet distributed the various government posts. This was not done because, among other things, the full shape of the coalition has not yet been decided on. I insisted that until we know the political, partisan makeup of the government, there is no point in discussing the distribution of the various posts. This will of course be influenced by the agreements we make with our coalition partners.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, yesterday there was a feeling that while you made a point of waiting for the results of the Labor Party vote, Ministers Sharon and Moda'i pushed ahead with the intent of signing agreements with the small factions. These agreements now seem, to a certain extent, to have lost their value.

[Shamir] No, this is a false impression. We maintained negotiations and contacts with our potential coalition partners, while at the same time we kept in mind the anticipated answer from Labor.

[Barqay] Has Labor's decision facilitated the distribution of the more sensitive portfolios, such as defense?

[Shamir] I would not say that I am looking for easy solutions or ways out of internal Likud problems. I do not look for them in the Labor Party. These issues will be decided within the Likud.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, as Likud ministers draft the guidelines for negotiations, or even hold a first meeting with the Labor ministers, can you state when you believe you will be able to present your new government to the Knesset?

[Shamir] Well, I believe that the meetings will already start today. I do not wish to waste time. They will be conducted hastily over the next few days. I hope that I will be able to present the Knesset with a government next week.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, thank you and good luck.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Peres on Labor Party's Goals, Negotiation Terms

TA0812191488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by Razi Barqay]

[Text] This is the brief exchange we had a few minutes ago with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and Labor Party chairman. We asked him where the Labor Party is heading now and what its demands in the negotiations will be.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The Labor Party has two goals: Keeping the peace process alive and changing the electoral system in order to give the State of Israel a ruling system that would not be debasing. We cannot be reproached incessantly of debasing ourselves, when we are left with absolutely no possibility to set up a government or formulate a policy. I regard this as our main objective, and I will strive to attain it.

[Barqay] Do you see yourselves entering a government... [changes thought] posing conditions for entering a government....

[Peres, interrupting] All you want is to make me say more than I intend to say. I have told you all I wished to say.

[Barqay] One last question, if I may. Will you qualify your participation in the government on the exclusion of the right-wing parties? You mentioned this in your address.

[Peres] First of all, we will agree neither to settlements nor to annexation. They will draw the appropriate conclusions from that.

[Barqay] Thank you. [end recording]

Peres Expands on Conditions

TA0912095088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman, by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ro'e] After your party's two votes and after having just heard the prime minister, do you think that a high hurdle is still ahead?

[Peres] We still have hurdles to jump; I do not know how high they are. These are usually quite complicated negotiations. I believe that both sides will conduct them with caution and responsibility, and without wasting any time.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, among other things, you and Mr Rabin yesterday mentioned the cooperation, or noncooperation, with what we call the right-wing parties, namely Tzomet, Moledet, and Tehiya. Looking at the political map, are you certain that you cannot sit with them in the same government?

[Peres] As far as we are concerned, what they presented as conditions is out of the question. For example, plenty of settlements or other such things. It is obvious that we oppose that. The notion of transfer cannot even cross our minds. Wherever transfer may arise, we will stand against it with all our strength. Of course we disagree—these are extreme right-wing parties. I do not see a possibility of sitting together with them.

[barqay] What will be the Alignment's position on the issue of Who Is a Jew?

[Peres] We will unequivocally vote against.

[Barqay] Will you demand or at least insist that the coalition agreement state clearly that you have a free vote on the issue?

[Peres] We do not have to insist on anything. In the first place, I do not think we will be presented with such a demand. We have a fixed position saying that the Law of Return should not be amended because it would cause a rift in the Jewish people. Had we wished to change this, we would need the Central Committee's approval. We did not consider appealing to the committee. Our position remains as it was, and I am sure that we will all vote unanimously against any amendment of the Law of Return.

[Barqay] One of the remaining issues is that of staffing the ministries. We have already addressed this question to the prime minister.

[Peres] There is time for that. I do not want to start the negotiations with this issue. I believe we must first discuss the substantial issues, and only later the portfolios.

[Barqay] Do you have a personal preference, the Foreign Ministry perhaps?

[Peres] You have already said a thousand times what I prefer. Why are you asking me?

[Barqay] Perhaps we could hear it directly from you.

[Peres] No. There is nothing to hear. I do not see that as a personal or a portfolio matter.

[Barqay] Would the party prefer the Finance or the Foreign Affairs portfolio?

[Peres] The party is divided on this issue. Some prefer one portfolio, some the other. The party is not made of a single opinion. Some members believe that our financial situation is very grave and that we must do our best to extricate ourselves. Others believe that if our international status does not improve, it will be hard to remedy our economic situation. The two are interrelated.

[Ro'e] There were some inconsistencies in the prime minister's responses on the matter, for example on the issue of the red line you drew yesterday in the Central Committee meeting on the subject of the right-wing parties. He did not exactly understand, or said that he cannot identify those parties with which you are not willing to talk.

[Peres] Yesterday we said clearly who these parties are. I did not mention them by name, someone else did. I understand, however, that one of them has announced that it would not join the government. You know who the other two are.

[Ro'e] Would you be willing to sit with Tehiya or Moledet under certain conditions?

[Peres] If they agree with our views, yes.

[Ro'e] Could you please state the conditions for the political plan on which you are going to insist?—the one the prime minister says will have to be drafted in the coalition guidelines.

[Peres] First of all, we will not accept any kind of veto on ideas toward peace. As a result of the renunciation of the London agreement and Husayn's perhaps temporary exit from the arena, we must present a clear and generally accepted political plan that will draw honor and trust both in Israel and outside it. We cannot keep criticizing the PLO's public relations system. In fact, we have cleared the whole stage for the PLO.

Our criticism is not sufficient to prevent the swing in public opinion they created. There are all sorts of ideas; no one can prevent us from stating a plan, taking initiative, and seeing it through. If there is a resolution, we will accept it. Now is the time to make new political ideas and initiatives that will enable Israel to appear for what it is: a country that leads the way to peace.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, what is going to happen in the Labor Party now that the voting is done and the resolutions made?

[Peres] What do you mean? What is the question?

[Barqay] There was a difficult debate...

[Peres, interrupting] There was a difficult debate. It was not the first time. We are a democratic party. The majority decided, and everybody will accept the majority's decision. I do not see any problems from this angle. I am very proud of the voting procedure. A free discussion was held. The voting was carried out with due procedure. No one feared to express his opinion. As is always the case in a democratic party, a resolution has been reached and it will be respected.

[Ro'e] Mr Peres, thank you very much.

Rabin on 'Arafat Statement, 'Intifada'
TA0812195788 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles on 8 December in the television studio—videorecorded]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Mr Rabin, does not the Stockholm document announced by Yasir 'Arafat yesterday constitute recognition of the State of Israel?

[Rabin] When it comes to the PLO and statements by its leaders one must be discriminating. Anybody saying that he is prepared to talk to the PLO is actually saying he is

prepared to accept the establishment of a PLO-Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. The chief meaning of a political dialogue with the PLO is an a priori agreement to such a notion. I do not support that notion. I object to the establishment of an independent PLO-Palestinian state in the territories and in East Jerusalem. Therefore, 'Arafat's formulations do not make much difference to me. They are not intended for us, but are designed, first and foremost, to attain a political dialogue with the United States.

As for 'Arafat's statement: First of all, indirect recognition of Israel is no big deal. Does Israel not exist? When it comes to a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem, we do not have a problem with the demand to recognize our existence. What is he talking about? Has the State of Israel not existed for 40 years? The problem is that 'Arafat is now showing more verbal flexibility than in the past—and we cannot ignore that—but he has not changed his objective of establishing a PLO-Palestinian state in the territories or his position on terrorism. He is simply evading the real problem and is not telling the truth about terrorism. After all, he does not consider the violent activities in the territories and anti-Israeli terrorist attacks from Lebanon and elsewhere part of what he terms terrorism. He clearly says that he will go ahead with those activities.

Moreover, he insists on the right to return. What is that right all about? He anchors this right in a UN resolution passed in the 1950's which talks about the right of all the Palestinians and their offspring who lived within the boundaries of the Green Line to choose between returning to their homes or receiving compensation. Consequently, agreement to establish a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the continuation of terrorism as it really is and not as he defines it, and insistence on the right of 1.5 million Palestinians to return to Israel's sovereign territory is a combination which, if we accept it, would be tantamount to committing national suicide.

[Ganor] If that is so, Mr Rabin, what must the PLO do to qualify, if at all, for being a partner to a dialogue with Israel?

[Rabin] I think that anyone who does not want to bring about the annihilation of the State of Israel has got nothing to talk about with a body like the PLO, whose two only objectives are the establishment of a PLO-Palestinian state in the territories and East Jerusalem and the right to return, especially seeing that the means to attain that is to continue violence and terrorism.

On the other hand—and I said as much before the elections—I think that all those who want to attain peace on our eastern border must find two partners: Jordan, and elected representatives of the Palestinian inhabitants living in the territories. I even proposed to the Palestinian inhabitants to hold free elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in order to choose a political representation, not mayors. With those representatives, together with Jordan, we would discuss the solution of problems, peace, the solution of the Palestinian problem, and the linking of that solution to Jordan. Incidentally, if they want to stay with us, if they do not want to live in some sort of autonomy but prefer to stay in a federative body which would be part of the State of Israel, I am in favor.

[Ganor] But Jordan has made its decision, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] That is why I am saying that. In the present circumstances I would opt for pursuing negotiations between us and the Palestinians living in the territories so as to find a temporary solution for an interim period. That temporary solution would be to give them more possibilities to run their daily lives and to choose their own representatives. We would at a later stage, after our joint experience, enter negotiations with them and Jordan on a permanent solution.

[Ganor] Is that autonomy?

[Rabin] It need not be exactly that. It could be an expanded autonomy rather than an autonomy that is not linked to land, settlements, and the right to run daily civilian life.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Rabin, I would like to go back to the issue of 'Arafat. Are you saying that even if 'Arafat were to recognize the State of Israel and renounce terrorism, he would still not be a partner to negotiations?

[Rabin] The way I see it, the problem is not whether he does or does not recognize Israel. Also, I do not believe he will renounce terrorism. I mean terrorism as I see it and not as he perceives it. When he talks about terror, he means he will not attack Israeli targets in Europe. Take what happened only yesterday in Denmark: although it was not terrorism, it still was violence and was most probably perpetrated by people connected with the PLO.

I am talking about the nature of the solution we want to attain. Those who support the establishment of a PLO-Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and East Jerusalem should talk to the PLO. I am opposed to that, and that is why I will not talk to the PLO under the present circumstances. I am in favor of talking to Palestinians, to elected representatives of the inhabitants of the territories, because without them and without Jordan we will not attain peace on our eastern border.

[Ganor] Given the current politica' situation in Israel, do you see a chance for the extended autonomy you mention? It seems to me that this the first time you have mentioned it.

[Rabin] No, in my 4 years in office as defense minister I have raised this idea on every possible occasion, including in talks with Arab inhabitants of the territories in the course of my search for elected representatives with whom I am prepared to discuss anything. But I believe that peace cannot be attained on our eastern border without Jordan. We can arrive at an interim solution which would allow them to run their lives in a broader sense than they could in the Likud's interpretation of the autonomy in its talks with Egypt.

[Ganor] Mr Rabin, one year after the beginning of the incidents in the territories there is less mass participation. In your capacity as the defense minister, where you have been closely in touch with the events, you have probably arrived at some interim conclusions.

[Rabin] Indeed, I have. Unfortunately, they are only interim conclusions because I cannot say that the violent events in the territories, which began in December 1987, are over. Moreover, even if we were to attain the level of violence that existed on 8 December 1987, the Arabs would still continue to term what is happening in the territories as intifada [uprising]. No matter what, this term will now be applied to any level of violence.

There is no doubt in my mind that we have had to tackle a phenomenon we had not known before: civilian violence aimed at attaining far-reaching political objectives. This represents an absolute change in Palestinian tactics in particular and in Arab tactics in general. It is no longer a war between the Arab armies and Israel, no longer terrorism as perceived by the PLO and as it has been carried out from Lebanon, but rather a wide and large popular uprising that includes women and children and the use of simple tools—not weapons, but rather stones, firebombs, burning tires, and demonstrations.

We have had to tackle all those on our own territory while abiding by the law. This was a tough ordeal. Personally, I would say this has been one of the toughest ordeals I have experienced in my long military career, and I think this also reflects the feeling of most IDF officers and soldiers. It is far more simple, convenient, and easy to tackle an external armed enemy than civilians under your rule.

[Ben-Menahem] What did they gain?

[Rabin] We must recognize the fact that ever since the Lebanon war, the military Arab-Israeli confrontation turned into a Palestinian-Israeli confrontation. The last 6 years are characterized by the fact that the military confrontation has been a Palestinian-Israeli one, rather than a confrontation between one or several Arab states and Israel. First there was the war in Lebanon, which was followed by our presence in Lebanon and terrorism from that country. Then came terrorism in the territories, which was followed by civilian violence. Thus, they gained one thing: The Palestinian issue has gained prominence in world public opinion compared to what it had been before 1982, particularly after peace was attained with Egypt.

Secondly, they managed to gain sympathy by the very fact that people in the Western democratic states do not like to watch confrontations between civilians, both women and children, and soldiers. It goes without saying that sympathy goes to the civilians.

Third, they managed to bring about the Jordanian decision [to disengage from the territories]. Along with the failure of the Shultz initiative they brought about the Jordanian decision and, consequently, diverted the focus of public attention from Jordan to the PLO and the drop of Jordan's stock as a partner to a solution, at least at this stage.

As for the violence itself, the damages caused by it depend on how one measures them. As far as casualties are concerned, notwithstanding the pain over every casualty, they have been less than what we have paid in our fight against terrorism from Lebanon.

At the same time, they generated a feeling of less security, particularly among Jewish settlers in the territories. Those areas had never experienced that feeling, they had never been border areas. At the same time, the trademark of the violent incidents—the mass demonstrations—have almost disappeared. If one takes a more comprehensive look and compares it to the damages inflicted by wars, terrorism violence does not feature prominently today, although it is a nuisance and causes painful harm.

I believe the mission of the security forces is to significantly lower violence and bring about relative calm, but it will not be to the point where not even one stone or firebomb will be thrown. On the other hand, their mission is to uphold the local authorities and the Civil Administration. I believe that through a phased process, which will take time, we will manage to significantly lower violence. The current level of violence is unacceptable to us and we will continue to lower it.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Rabin, the IDF deployment in the territories has been beefed up in anticipation of today and tomorrow. Various measures, including curfews, have been implemented. What do you think will happen in the next 2 days?

[Rabin] I believe now the Army is capable of preventing demonstrations and of dispersing them speedily, if they take place. The IDF is in fact capable of telling the Palestinians: You can proceed with whatever you have been doing, and we will deal with it. You yourselves, however, will be the main victims. From certain aspects, you have achieved your part of the goals, because the Palestinian issue has surfaced. Now the solution has to be relayed to the political levels, but 'Arafat is not the right address. Whoever deals with the issue, has to be acceptable to the majority of the Israelis. [passage omitted]

AL-SIYASAH Interviews King on Arab Issues

JN0812172188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Interview with King Husayn by Ahmad al-Jarallah, editor in chief of Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH, published on 8 December—date, place not given]

[Text] Question: Your Majesty the King. Your ceaseless shuttle trips to Arab capitals give one the impression that something is taking place. What is it?

Answer: As you have asked this question, let us familiarize the Arab citizen with some facts. Our Arab world is different from what it used to be. Circumstances have changed. Perhaps, the world's transformations and changes are factors that have changed many Arab stands. Some of our capitals have halted the old talk of exporting revolution or facing international issues with flawed judgment or mistaken calculations. Currently, we face a different situation.

In 1992, the world will witness the birth of a third force—namely, a united Europe through its EEC. This third force will possess capabilities that might make it surpass the two superpowers. In this atmosphere of expectation, the Arab leaderships are not different from what they used to be in both their behavior and their concepts of leading their peoples. Our brothers in the Arab Maghreb were the first to feel the effect of the coming European force. Hence, they called for an inter-Maghreb rapprochement. Their prevailing talk now is of the creation of a greater Arab Maghreb. There is a trend now to translate this idea into a practical form and manifestation. For this reason, political relations among the Maghreb states have improved.

The EEC lacks the characteristics and motives for cooperation enjoyed by the Arab world. By these criteria, we are in a better position than others to create an important force. Hence, the Jordanian leadership feels that its role in light of all of these variables lies in pushing the orientation of inter-Arab relations from tactical sentiments to practical manifestations that contain the elements of cooperation, with the end product being the creation of an Arab force.

Question: Your Majesty the King, what will be the form of this Arab force which you are talking about and which you have been conducting shuttle trips for?

Answer: In this regard, I myself wonder why the Arab cannot be distributed into three cooperative groups. In the [Arabian] Gulf, you created an important entity—namely, the GCC. Why can there not be a similar grouping comprising the Arab Maghreb states and another grouping comprising the eastern Mediterranean states? We are currently talking with Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and other fraternal states on a cooperation formula whose manifestation will be the creation of a certain entity. If these entities would have certain characteristics not enjoyed by similar entities, were to be formed under the appropriate current circumstances and under the umbrella of the Arab League, whose charter must be amended, they will create an important and effective force in the world.

Question: Your Majesty the King, do you believe that Arab leaderships in current circumstances have changed, considering their past irreconcilable differences?

Answer: Arab political thinking has changed a great deal, becoming hospitable to better cooperation. The performance of the Arab world has improved and current differences can be employed to improve performance. People can no longer be misled about their Arab national interests. The Arab people now have a feeling regarding who does best for them. Also, they have begun to exert pressure to ensure that their interests will be served. Consequently, and in light of this fact, the Arab political leaderships can no longer deceive their citizens into acting against their interests in following schemes designed by these leaderships. If the Arab political leaderships were to do this, they will isolate themselves from the peoples of the Arab world. Hence, they will face internal pressures.

The performance of Arab leaderships is good. It might come to fruition and result in overcoming the problems facing the Arab world, which may be exploited by external hands as time bombs at the appropriate moment. Foremost among these are the border problems, which must be resolved in the Arab world.

Question: Your Majesty, you say that the Arab world must end the border problems that exist between its states. Is this Arab world now in a serious position that will allow it to end these problems?

Answer: Yes. I have talked with some Arab leaders and told them that their performance, and the performance of relations between peoples, is improving, particularly in the past few months since the convening of the [Arab summit] conference for reconciliation and accord in Amman and, after that, the Algiers summit. This improvement in performance gives the impression that the Arab world's peoples and their leaders now have a new, important trend. In order to push forward this trend practically, we must end the border problems that exist in the Arab world.

I was in Iraq and heard the Iraqi president saying that he feels that he carries a heavy burden until he ends the border issue with Kuwait. The Iraqi president has even charged his foreign minister with acting quickly to end this problem. If the foreign minister had not been busy with the peace talks with Iran in Geneva, the problem would have been resolved by now. The Iraqi president has told me that he is looking for another person to charge with the responsibility of ending this issue because his foreign minister is busy.

This trend means that Arab leaders do not want to leave any loopholes through which enemies of the Arab nation can pass and in order to prevent these loopholes from affecting the strength of performance in the Arab relations.

Question: Your Majesty, in this atmosphere, how do you view the possibility of convening the Arab summit conference?

Answer: During the recent meeting among us, President Husni Mubarak, and Yasir 'Arafat, we dealt with the subject. We said: Why not convene the conference with those who will attend, especially since the current Arab League's charter does not call for unanimity. The Arab world's current strength is homogeneous in opinion and there is a large number who want to convene the conference. The summit conference must be convened and become regular. Also, Egypt must return. Naturally, we must reconsider the Arab League's charter in order to make it correspond to the new phase and in order to be able to rebuild its institutions and improve its performance, particularly if we want to face 1992, the date for the establishment of the new European force, which began with the Common Market.

I said that we have reviewed the possibility of convening the conference. We have even proposed the idea of convening it in Baghdad so that everybody understands that Arabs support Baghdad in war and peace—naturally, after the approval of the big sister, Saudi Arabia, because the venue for the next conference is scheduled to be Riyadh.

Question: Your Majesty, will Egypt's return to the Arab League and Arab summit conferences be determined in the next summit.

Answer: Naturally. The majority wants Egypt's return and all that is required is for the conference to convene and decide to invite Egypt and then President Mubarak can attend. What we want is to convene the conference and there is no need to have an agenda in advance. We can invite Egypt and then talk about the new data which we want and which will naturally include the improvement of the Arab League's performance and its charter.

The involvement of the Arab world in connection with a homogeneous economic performance will serve this world and benefit its financial performance. The establishment of some kind of economic coordination among Arab states will improve the performance of the Arab wealth so that non-oil producing Arab states can find that they do not need allocations of financial aid and that the establishment of organized economic coordination among them is enough to make them reach this conclusion. The establishment of economic coordination will undoubtedly improve the distribution of Arab wealth and raise the standard of living in the Arab world. Question: Your Majesty, let us talk about the Palestine question. What are the coming stages of a solution to this problem?

Answer: The Israeli calculations are now in a bad situation and with the passage of time the situation will worsen as far as Israel is concerned. After a period of time, the number of Palestinians inside the occupied territory will become close to that of the Jewish population. Israel cannot face this problem. The uprising has been continuing for 1 year now. This uprising causes big problems to Israeli security calculations. The world view of Israel and the Palestine question has changed. The pressure on Israel has become strong and it should agree to exchange the land for peace.

I believe that the coming spring will be important with regard to the Palestine question. We will see something this spring. Areas of tension in the world have ended and what is left is only the Palestine question. In addition to this, the conflict between the major powers began to take another form. This might have resulted from the pressure of the current circumstances. America is now facing a huge financial deficit as reported by its media every day. And the Russians are incapable of catching up with the American race. If they do so they will create negative effects on their economic systems.

The major powers' struggle has now begun to take another form of cooperation. These countries believe that they have enough weapons not to destroy themselves but to destroy the entire world and that they no longer need any disputes. This is in addition to the fact that the form of the zone of influence is no longer as it was in the past. The type, destructive capability, and range of weapons have changed the place and form of relations and interests. Hence came the decision to end the areas of tension in the world. Alone, the Middle East problem remains. However, I say again that in the coming spring we will witness something tangible with regard to this issue.

Next week, Yasir 'Arafat will address the UN meeting in Geneva. We have gained from America's refusal to grant 'Arafat a visa. Suffice to see the support which the Palestine question has gained as a result of this refusal.

Question: Your Majesty, why did the United States refuse to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa?

Answer: Mr Shultz speaks with the mind of the Israeli extremist right-wing. However, and despite this, we should not differ with the U.S. Administration in the present circumstances. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz might have made the decision according to his personal considerations and calculations. Yasir 'Arafat is aware of this point. This awareness may be reflected in the language of his coming speech in Geneva.

Question: Your Majesty, America asked Yasir 'Arafat certain things and he responded to them. However, America did not keep its pledge.

Answer: Yasir 'Arafat and Palestinian officials have shown the flexibility required by the international stand. They accepted the Security Council resolutions and announced

that they condemn terrorism. After this acceptance, America was supposed to recognize the PLO and pressure it to convene the international conference. However, the transfer of the American presidency might be one of the reasons that made the U.S. stand unstable. President Bush will soon assume his tasks and the information we have indicates that President Bush, who served at the United Nations, assumed the responsibilities of his country's mission in China for a long time, and knows the region from close range, together with those he has chosen for his Administration, should adopt a trend identical with the world trend that believes that Israel should relinquish its fanaticism in order to achieve peace.

I said earlier that many Israeli security calculations are facing changes. These changes will impose other stands on Israel. Otherwise, Israel will face problems. One of these problems is that the reasonable Palestinian stand cannot be exploited by the Israelis in the world quarters. The Arab and Palestinian stand has become clear; it seeks peace. Israel should agree to exchange the land for peace, otherwise it will face costly problems.

Question: Your Majesty, let us move to another point. What about the political position toward Egypt?

Answer: We heard good comments from the Syrian leadership about Egypt following the Al-'Aqabah meeting. We wanted to shift from the stage of exchanging good feelings to a practical stage. We asked the brothers in Syria about this possibility. We sensed flexibility in their answer. Afterward, media campaigns between the two countries ended, which is a serious step.

Here I reiterate that we want to use the current good performance of the Arab leaderships through a unified effort. Let us quit all previous categorizations and suppose that a practical atmosphere can be created among Arab leaderships. Now we want to move from one stage to another, which is the stage of practical understanding. I believe this is possible. Any abandonment of the new performance in the Arab world will lead to the complete isolation of any Arab political leadership inconsistent with the strength of the current performance. There is nothing harder than isolation. Wise political leadership is in harmony with our Arab world's new circumstances, which aim to link the Arab peoples and countries through cooperation.

Question: Your Majesty, what about Libya? Is it on good terms with Egypt?

Answer: Yes, the situation is better. Media campaigns have ceased, and tension between the two countries has decreased. This confirms that the next stage of Arab leadership cooperation will either be governed by rationality and harmony with the new performance, or any regime that does not want to understand the content of the new stage will be isolated.

Question: Your Majesty, how do you view your current position in the Arab world while you are holding frequent shuttle tours among Arab capitals?

Answer: When a man grows older and finds that he can do something that will be remembered by history, it is wise to do it. We are from the Arab nation and derive our strength from it. We fail when this nation fails. I found that I have something inside, and I wanted to articulate it. Hence these shuttle trips. Their aim is to establish an Arab world enjoying reconciliation and accord—a world in which all resources are used wisely.

As I said, the characteristics that unified West Europe are not more important than those of the Arab world. The emerging strong performance among the Arab leaderships only needs a coordinator to boost and use it. I am an individual from this nation. I want nothing from it but to be remembered through its history as a man who worked sincerely for this nation and its affairs. We have nothing to leave but good deeds remembered by the Arab peoples.

Question: Your Majesty, what about the Jordanian dinar and its decline in the money market?

Answer: The Jordanian dinar now reflects its genuine market value. We used to face export problems because the dinar was overvalued. Investors also believed that the dinar rate was not fair. The dinar's exchange rate has declined. There are causes for that, by which we are not disturbed. For example, some sources of Arab support for Jordan halted, resulting in a shoratge of foreign currency. In addition, following the Jordanian-Palestinian political disengagement decision and as a result of Israeli pressure on our brothers on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, those brothers used their deposits in Jordanian dinars. Israel exploited this. Our brothers changed their deposists into other currencies. This added some pressure. Also, Jordan continues to bear confidently the resoponsibility of managing its debts and paying them on time. These debts are in foreign currencies.

I visited the Central Bank to ask about our next obligations and I found that we are still paying Bethlehem and Jerusalem old debts. We are not dissastisfied with this. Rather, we are proud that we have paid our debts on time without delay. We have presented the case and our measures to the World Bank. The Bank told us that what we did was what it would have recommended, if not better. The decline of the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate is natural and will serve the next Jordanian stage. The Jordanian citizens or investors in Jordan will feel that.

All that we want is a constant ability to fix the exchange rate through depositing foreign currencies in the Central Bank to cover market needs when there is speculation on

exchange rates. On the other hand, we are very statisfied with the decline in the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate because this will increase exports and enhance foreign investors' confidence that the Jordanian currency has dropped and will not drop further in the future.

Question: Your Majesty, with the absence of Arab aid, can Jordan stand on its feet?

Answer: We would have liked this aid to continue so that it can support us during the coming stage. But, naturally, we must organize the Jordanian economic situation on the basis that Jordan is living without aid. We must organize the conditions, and, naturally through the dinar's normal price, the private sector can become effective. Naturally, the government must shoulder the negativeness of the first stage, particularly the harsh criticism from the citizen who was negatively affected by the devaluation and retreat of the dinar. However, the devaluation will at the same time positively affect other sectors. Therefore, we must employ this equilibrium between the negative and positive effects. In the future, the Jordanian citizen will feel that what happened has created the necessary equilibrium and that what happened is to his benefit. Of course, the beginnings will be hard but we must put up with them.

Since the Baghdad summit conference, Jordan has paid huge financial commitments, including defense and development commitments and these commitments have affected us. In the future, the performance of our economy will improve, the pressure of foreign debts against us will reduce, and the situation will become good.

Naturally, what we want now is to create some kind of coordination in the Arab world's economy. It is time to have this coordination, which the Arab world's peoples are paying to achieve. The amount of Arab money invested abroad is large. Ultimately, this money must be invested in their countries because the returns are better, the performance of the political atmosphere is better, and the investment atmosphere in the Arab world is better than the investment atmosphere abroad. All we need is to improve and stabilize the legislations.

Question: Your Majesty, can we discuss another subject and ask: Do you believe the Iraq-Iran war has ended?

Answer: Of course it has ended. However, we do not want to prolong the peace talks so they become like the North-South Korean talks. Also, the Arab world must make the Iranians feel that they support Iraq in peace, as well as in war. Therefore, we say that an Arab summit conference in Baghdad will have a good moral effect.

A clamor was raised over the issue of chemical warfare in northern Iraq. This is untrue because the UN representatives have confirmed this. However, there were some who wanted to raise this subject in order to exploit it in a manner that will harm not only Iraq, but also Iran and Turkey by renewing the subject of the establishment of a Kurdish state there. Iraq has managed to repel this harm against the Arab world.

The war was between an Arab and a non-Arab state. We do not want to mention details. However, duty called on us to support Iraq. We have supported it because it is an Arab country and any harm against it will extend to other Arab states, especially since Iran has not determined its objectives after the war. Iran has said that the aim of this war was not only Iraq, but to export the revolution and establish an expanded Persian state. This has made us choose the option of supporting Iraq.

Iraq was harmed, and so were other Arab states in the Gulf. This war became everybody's concern until peace was achieved. We want this peace to become firm so that these states, including Iran, can devote themselves to development and so that the concern in the time of the truce does not become a concern for organizing the military affairs and then return to another war which we do not want.

Question: Your Majesty, the dark shadows of war have moved away from the region. What concern is there now regarding its repercussions and effects?

Answer: The main concern I heard from western politicians is some people's fear of Iraqi power. However, the concern of the Iraqi political leadership is certainly focused on considering its power a power for the Arabs and that the time to export revolutions has ended. Iraq, with its present political mind, hates interference in others' affairs. I conveyed these concerns to Iraq. Its response was that it is indebted to those who stood at its side in the war against Iran and that it has no stands against those who differed with it over this war because those have their own excuses that Iraq respects if they were not parties to the war.

I said earlier that the political activity in the Arab world has changed. Iraq with its present policy is exercising this civilized new activity in its relations with the world and with its Arab world in particular.

We should deal with the results of the war, including Iraq's victory as a victory for the Arab nation, and not a victory for Iraq alone. The Iraqi power and its appearance in the Arab world is a power for the Arab homeland.

Question: Your Majesty, what about your prime minister? Does he still enjoy your royal confidence?

Answer: Zayd al-Rifa'i is a personality who was able to achieve many things on the level of his work. It is unfair to hold him responsible for the negativeness of the government. This negativeness existed [before Al-Rifa'i became prime minister] and Zayd al-Rifa'i was able to fulfill his tasks the way we wished. There is no intention

of changing the prime minister although there is a trend to make a slight reshuffle in some ministerial portfolios. In my opinion, the prime minister should remain in office, particularly since Zayd al-Rifa'i has made his presence felt on the internal and external levels. If Jordan has witnessed a stage of quick turnover in prime ministers, the current stage requires stability. The tasks entrusted to the government require that the prime minister stay in office for a long time. I believe that this is what is required by the current circumstances of the Jordanian political life.

King Sends Condolences to Gorbachev on Earthquake
JN0912123488 Amman Domestic Servince in English 1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] His majesty the king today sent a cable of sympathy to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in the aftermath of the earthquake that hit Soviet Armenia on Wednesday. His majesty expressed profound sorrow and grief over the casualties and damage caused by the earthquake.

Information Minister on 'Uprising' Anniversary
JN0812094288 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic p 12

["Text" of statement to AL-RA'Y by Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah on the first anniversary of the Palestinian "uprising"]

[Text] The king, government, and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan receive the beginning of the 2d year of the Palestinan Arab people's uprising with pride in the steadfastness and struggle of this brotherly heroic people, and with prayers for the souls of the righteous martyrs who were killed by the Israeli occupation in defense of their legitimate right to resist the occupation and in an expression of the genuineness and vitality of the Arab personality, and its adherence to its identity, culture, and soil.

The uprising of the Palestinian Arab people has revealed a lofty and responsible level of occupation resistance. It took forms and manifestations that enabled it to win the sympathy of all forces of freedom and peace in the world. I refer in particular to the organized collective struggle by all groups of the Palestinian Arab people under the occupation and the legitimate demands of the uprising, summed up in a call to end the Israeli occupation and bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

These just demands were accentuated by the resolutions in Algiers of the PNC, the highest legitimate Palestinian body. In its latest session, it adopted resolutions calling for the establishment of the Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil on the basis of UN General Assembly's Resolution No 181, and declaring PLO's readiness to attend the international peace conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution Nos 242 and 338. These PNC resolutions represent the highest level of response to the demands that the international parties concerned with the international conference made as conditions for negotiating with the PLO.

Out of its belief that the Palestine question is the first Arab issue and also its first issue, Jordan supported the Palestinian Arab people since the first day of the uprising, and before and during the uprising. In all its capacity, Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian struggle, highlight the Palestinian Arab identity, and back the efforts of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, until their aims are achieved, God willing.

Coordination and consultations between Jordan and the PLO, governed by a spirit of brotherhood, frankness, and sincere responsibility, constitute a basic guarantee for achieving the goals of the brotherly Palestinian Arab people. On this great occasion in the life of the Arab nation, we must express Jordan's absolute conviction in the success of the Palestinian Arab people in achieving the just aims of their struggle. There are daily living signs that strengthen this conviction. These are reflected in the current large-scale support for the Palestinian stand in Europe, the entire world, and even in the United States itself despite the regrettable position by the U.S. secretary of state concerning an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat to enable him to address the UN General Assembly in New York.

Also, the unified Arab stand, which Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, is helping to promote and maintain, is the main effort needed at this stage to provide comprehensive pan-Arab support for the uprising and its aims to end the occupation and achieve the legitimate demands of the Palestinian Arab people—namely, the establishment of their independent state on their national soil within a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the whole region.

Official on Committee With Palestinian State
JN0812113388 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 88 p 20

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Dr Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, has stressed that the activities and services of the department before the declaration of the Palestinian state are being performed and offered in the same extent and effort after the declaration.

He said any changes in the activities of the department depend on the expected developments during the next period. The declaration of the state, he added, has had little effect on the activities of the department since the disengagement of legal and administrative ties between Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

Dr Qatanani said that Jordan's position toward supporting the kinfolk in the West Bank still exists. It is committed to joining the trend toward peace and security in the region, he added.

On the activities of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, Dr Qatanani said the committee still meets periodically to discuss items on its agenda. Work is proceeding in the same pattern as it used to before the declaration of the Palestinian state, he said.

He said that the committee is now suffering from the fact that most of the Arab countries failed to meet their financial obligations to support the activities of the committee, which were decided at the Baghdad [1978] summit and also 2 years ago. Only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued to meet its obligations, he said. It provided approximately 19 million dinars at the beginning of this year.

PNC Statement Urges Support for 'Uprising'

JN0812102388 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 88 p 20

[Text] Amman—SWAT AL-SHA'B—The PNC members in Jordan have called for a wide-scale Arab drive to support the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and implement the Algiers Arab summit resolutions concerning the financial support for the uprising.

In a statement on the occassion of the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, they called for backing the Palestinian political initiative, which is based on the resolutions of Arab consensus.

The statement called on the Arab governments to develop their stands, raise the level of coordination with the PLO, and block the road before all those who are trying to revive differences. They also called for unifying Arab efforts and bridging the gaps in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The statement also called for intensive efforts to convene an effective international conference to be attended by the PLO on equal footing with all parties to the conflict, and the Security Council's permanent member states.

The statement called for the need to pressure the U.S. Administration to force it to retract its policy—biased toward Israel and hostile to the Palestinian people's rights and Arab interests.

The statement praised the determination of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories to proceed with their uprising until the occupation is removed and the independence is achieved.

Factions Unite Against Israeli Incursion

Israeli Raids, Landing Attempt

NC0912061288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0532 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Before giving the details of the news, it is necessary to note the new developments in the Al-Na'imah area. Israeli helicopters flew over Harat al-Na'imah and the area to the east of Sidon at approximately 0230 today. The aircraft were confronted with antiaircraft fire. At 0545 the enemy aircraft bombarded Al-Na'imah and attempted to land troops in the area, but members of the Lebanese national resistance and Palestinian resistance confronted the attempt and foiled it.

Subsequently, the Israeli aircraft raked the area. Antiaircraft batteries are confronting the raiding planes in the appropriate way. Since 0630 and until the time of this newscast, Israeli combat aircraft have been conducting intensive raids against nationalist positions in Al-Na'imah and the outskirts of Al-Damur and Bi'wirta. According to reports, the raids are being conducted at 3-minute intervals. However, the resistance men are confronting the new aggression with various weapons.

Israeli Landing in Al-Na'imah

NC0912070988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0640 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Once again, we are in contact with the editorial room. Ilyas Shahink is going to give us the latest reports about the Israeli raids in the Al-Na'imah hills. Hello, Ilyas.

[Shahin] Hello, we have received word a while ago from eyewitnesses in Al-Na'imah that an actual landing of Israeli troops has taken place. Two Cobra helicopters were used in the landing. There are fierce clashes between the group landed by the Israelis and a Palestinian force in Al-Na'imah. This was reported by eyewitnesses.

Meanwhile, helicopters are still providing cover for the landed troops and firing their machineguns. Antiaircraft fire is being directed at the aircraft, which are ejecting thermal balloons to divert the ground-to-air missiles.

The eyewitnesses reported that about 0822, two helicopters landed Israeli fighting elements in Al-Na'imah and that these elements have been confronted by Palestinian fighters. There are also unconfirmed reports that a number of the personnel landed by Israeli helicopters have been captured.

More Fighting in Al-Na'imah

NC0912072388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Clashes are still continuing between members of the Lebanese national resistance and Palestinian resistance fighters and the Israeli occupation forces in the wake of the Israeli landing in Al-Na'imah hills and the outskirts of Al-Damur and Bi'wirta at 0330 today. Israeli helicopters, supported by Israeli gunboats, had begun to strafe these areas at approximately 0230 today. This was followed by raids carried out by Israeli combat aircraft. The raiding planes, were confronted with antiaircraft fire. The enemy forces also used police dogs to place strange mobile and stationary objects in the said areas. The citizens are requested not to touch any of these objects and to inform the nearest security police station of them.

The Israeli warplanes have continued their flights over Khaldah, Beirut, and the Mountain.

Israeli Ship Said Off Coast

NC0912072588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Clashes are continuing between resistance fighters and Israeli occupation forces following the landing operation in the Al-Na'imah hills and the outskirts of Al-Damur and Bi'wirta at dawn today.

Four Cobra helicopters carried out a raid on this area at 0830 today. The same area was the target of two air raids at 0400 and 070 today. At about 0845 today, the planes bombed the Khaldah hill. An Israeli warship has reportedly been sighted off the coast.

Israeli Killed; Two Wounded

NC0912074788 Paris AFP in English 0717 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 9 (AFP)—An Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded when an Israeli seaborne commando were beaten off as they attempted to land on the coast 20 kms (12 miles) south of here, a security official in the area reported.

He said the naval commando, supported by helicopters, tried to land at the town of Al-Damur to attack Palestinian positions in the sector, but retreated in face of a counter-offensive by forces of Druze leader Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

PSP sources meanwhile reported that Israeli warplanes blasted the area at dawn about two hours after the failed landing, which occurred around 0200 GMT (4 a.m.).

The PSP also said there were Israeli casualties in he heavy fighting between PSP militiamen and Israeli troops, but gave no figures.

The Israeli planes pounded the Al-Na'imah hills near Al-Damur for several minutes, sending up thick columns of smoke, before overflying Beirut, where anti-aircraft batteries went into action.

Syrians Participate in Fighting

NC0912072888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0724 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] REUTER has cited eyewitnesses as saying that the Syrian forces deployed on the coastal road between Beirut and South Lebanon are taking part in the attempt to repel the attacking Israeli forces.

Traffic at Airport Suspended

NC0912073488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0725 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] We were informed a short while ago that air traffic at Beirut airport has been suspended because of the Israeli air raids on the Al-Na'imah and Khaldah areas. Arriving aircraft have been asked to land at neighboring airports, such as Cyprus or Damascus.

Israeli Troops Land in Al-Damur

NC0912074988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0732 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Following the Israeli landing of troops in Bi'wirta, we have received reliable security reports that the Israeli forces have also carried out a successful landing in Al-Damur. Violent clashes are taking place right now between the landed troops and the Syrian forces in the area. Meanwhile, Israeli planes continue to wage intensive raids on Al-Na'imah.

Raids on Khaldah, Al-Shuwayfat

NC0912075188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0733 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted new raids against the Khaldah junction and the town of Al-Shuwayfat and the hills surrounding it. Meanwhile, fierce fighting continues between the Israeli troops on one side and the PSP, Syrian, Palestinian forces, and members of the nationalist movement on the other. We will provide with more details as soon as we receive them.

PFLP-GC: Israelis Besieged

JN0912081088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0745 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 1

A responsible source in the PFLP-GC has stated the following:

At 0200 today, 9 December 1988, the Zionist enemy carried out air and sea raids on our forces' positions in the Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur areas. The enemy forces are estimated to be the size of a commando battalion. The enemy supported its forces with intensive fire from its naval units and helicopters.

A fierce battle and hand-to-hand fighting took place between our forces and the Zionist enemy forces, and our forces succeeded in besieging the enemy forces in the Al-Na'imah area and in preventing their withdrawal. This situation continues as this report was prepared at 0900 on Friday. The Zionist enemy is trying to break the siege imposed on its forces by carrying out intensive and successive aerial raids on our positions, using helicopter gunships. Its attempts have so far been doomed to failure, and large losses have been inflicted on the Zionist enemy forces.

We will furnish you with subsequent reports and detailed military communiques. God is with us. Victory is imminent. Together along the path of liberating land and man.

'Another' Landing in Al-Shuf

NC0912081188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] There has been another Israeli landing, this time in the Al-Mishrif hills, following the landings in Al-Sa'diyat, Al-Na'imah, and Bi'wirta. There is an Israeli advance toward Al-Damur, while Israeli planes continue to wage intensive raids the Al-Na'imah hills and Al-Damur.

Israeli Casualties Reported

NC0912081588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The latest reports about the Israeli landing in the Al-Na'imah hills and the outskirts of Al-Damur and Bi'wirta indicate that fierce clashes are now centered in the Al-Na'imah hills where PSP, Syrian, Palestinian, and nationalist forces are confronting the Israeli forces which landed in the area at dawn today. [passage omitted]

Israeli gunboats are cruising off the coast opposite the operation area, and hostile planes are flying over the western Al-Shahhar area.

It is believed that the expansion of the scope of aggression has been caused by the capture of a number of enemy troops. Palestinian sources have reported that 8 Israeli soldiers have been captured and according to other preliminary reports, the losses among hostile forces range between 6 and 10 killed.

New Landing Attempt

NC0912082488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0804 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] We have just received the following report. Four Israeli helicopters are attempting to land troops in the Mutayyir 'Bayh area. The aircraft are being confronted by suitable weapons. We were also informed a short time ago that several other Israeli helicopters are again flying over the Al-Na'imah area and bombarding positions there.

Landing Forces To Break Siege

JN0912082488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0805 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No. 2, issued at 1000 on Friday, 9 December 1988

The American-Zionist enemy is trying to land troops from its naval units off the Al-Na'imah coast in a bid to break the siege imposed on its units. Zionist enemy

aircraft are now carrying out violent raids on our positions to cover up the landing of its troops and break the siege on its units. Our forces are fiercely confronting the American-Zionist enemy, inflicting several losses. Our fighters' morale is very high.

We will furnish you with all information later. God is with us. Victory is imminent. Together along the path of liberating land and man.

Damascus Radio Report

JN0912083088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] In the Al-Damur area of southern Lebanon, an Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded during a landing attempt by Israeli military planes at dawn today west of the town of Al-Damur in the South. Reports said that the national resistance carried out a counterattack against the Israeli paratroopers and besieged them.

Meanwhile, the enemy planes are bombing the resistance positions in an attempt to rescue the besieged Israeli paratroopers.

Battles Continue Near Al-Na'imah

JN0912083688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0827 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Communique No. 3

The American-Zionist enemy this morning, Friday, 9 December 1988, expanded its aggression. At 1000, it landed fresh airborne troops east of the Al-Na'imah area near the township of Shimlan. Fierce battles are now raging between our forces and the American-Zionist enemy forces in all areas.

Troops Surrounded in Monastery

NC0912090288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0839 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, Palestinian and PSP forces, members of the nationalist movement, and Syrian troops are continuing to confront the invading forces in the Al-Na'imah hills. According to the reports, fierce fighting is currently raging around the monastery in Al-Na'imah where a group of Israeli troops are being surrounded. [passage omitted]

PSP Deploys Additional Forces

JN0912085088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 4, issued by the PFLP-GC

The PSP forces are taking part with our forces in the fierce fighting in the Al-Na'imah and Shimlan areas. The PSP is throwing additional forces into the operational theater.

PFLP-GC: 8 Israelis Captured

NC0912085888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0843 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to latest reports about the Israeli landing, fierce clashes are taking place between the Israeli forces which landed in 'Aramun, Al-Mishrif, Al-Na'imah hills, Bi'wirta, and Al-Damur.

The pro-Syrian PFLP-GC has said that the Syrian forces have captured eight Israeli soldiers following an Israeli landing in 'Aramun. A short while ago, the PSP said that Israeli planes have raided Syrian forces in the Khaldah-'Aramun juncture.

PFLP-GC: Aircraft Downed

JN0912085888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0847 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Communique No 5 at 1030 [0830 GMT], issued by the PFLP-GC

1. Battles are still raging in the Al-Na'imah area and the surrounding hills between our valiant forces and the forces of the American-Zionist enemy, which is trying to break the siege clamped on its forces by carrying out successive air raids and by trying to land fresh troops on the Al-Na'imah coast near Shimlan.

2. Our valiant forces captured Zionist enemy groups and evacuated them to the rear.

3. Our forces downed an enemy aircraft over the fighting zone.

1,000 Israelis Said Deployed

NC0912090988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0849 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] We have learned a short while ago that about 50 Israeli soldiers took up positions between 0900 and 1000 today in the Al-Damur Hill and the Ibrahim Abu 'Ayyash quarry. The Zionist deployment has risen to about 1,000 soldiers in Al-Sa'diyat and Al-Damur. The clashes are now concentrated in the Al-Dubbiyah Hill and Al-Sa'diyat. The enemy helicopters are dropping strange objects, like time bombs, in the area to hinder the resistance fighters' movement. A force of the Nasirite Popular Organization left at 1000 today toward tne area to take part in the battles.

Israeli gunboats off Al-Sa'diyat are directing 120-mm artillery fire at the area. The coastal road is considered dangerous for traffic.

We have also been informed that 10 Israeli soldiers have been taken prisoner by the Syrian forces. One Israeli holds the rank of captain and is named Maurice. Eight resistance fighters and a number of civilians were martyred.

PFLP-GC: 18 Israelis Captured

JN0912090888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0853 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 6, issued by the PFLP-GC at 1040 [0840 GMT]

The toll of enemy soldiers captured thus far numbers 18 Zionist soldiers, ranging between prisoners and wounded. [sentence as heard] They were evacuated to the rear.

Battles are still raging fiercely. The American-Zionist enemy is trying to throw in more rescue forces under a crazy aerial bombardment.

PFLP-GC Mourns Leader's Death

JN0912092888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arabic Radio in Arabic 0903 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 7, issued by the PFLP-GC

The commander of the PFLP-GC Al-Na'imah military post has been martyred in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy while at the head of his fighters. He is comrade martyr leader 'Adnan Jamil 'Abbud, also known as Abu Jamil. Glory to you, O martyr leader Abu Jamil. Do not grieve, O leader. Today marks a double occasion: The day of the confrontation and that of the uprising. Your fighters' rifles are firing in the name of God is great, God is great, Palestine is Arab.

God is great, and Abu Jamil is God's beloved one. God is great, and your blood will turn into a fire burning the face of the Nazis. God is great, and Palestine becomes great with us. Glory to you, O martyr leader Abu Jamil. Sleep in peace, O Abu Jamil, because there are scores of dead, wounded, and prisoners among the Zionist enemy soldiers. God is great. Now the martyrs of Palestine inside and outside the occupied territories join each other.

Syrian Tanks Advance

NC0912091588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0909 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The PFLP has reported that 18 Israeli soldiers were captured by the Syrian forces during today's raids and are now in the hands of the Syrian forces. Ten Syrian tanks are advancing from the [Beirut] airport toward Khaldah. At this time, Israeli aircraft are making intensive sorties over Sidon and the camps.

The PFLP-GC has announced that two of its members have been killed and a number of others wounded during these operations.

Syrians Capture Israeli Sergeant

NC0912094088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to our correspondent, the PFLP-GC has captured 18 Israeli soldiers, while the Syrian forces captured an Israeli sergeant [as heard] named Maurice.

The pro-Syrian PFLP-GC said that the Syrian forces battling the Israeli army were able to capture 18 Israelis, 10 of whom are injured. REUTER has cited Palestinian sources saying that Palestinian gunmen have surrounded 12 Israelis in 'Aramun.

Lebanese police sources say that four Israeli soldiers have been captured in Al-Damur and transfered to the rear lines.

PFLP-GC Updates Events

JN0912094488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0921 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 8, issued by the PFLP-GC

The Zionist enemy forces are still besieged near Dayr al-Na'imah and around the Bi'wirta road. Clashes are continuing between our valiant forces and the Zionist enemy forces.

The situation of our forces is very good, and the Zionist enemy is continuing its intensive aerial raids, using fighter planes and helicopter gunships. The landing operations zone was expanded and included the 'Aramun and Bshamun hills. Clashes with the Zionist enemy forces are being carried out by our forces, the PSP forces, and the Syrian Arab forces.

We will furnish you with all developments.

Israeli Boats Approach Coast

JN0912094688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0933 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 9, issued by the PFLP-GC

Zionist boats are approaching the coast opposite Iqlim al-Kharrub. They are now close to the coast. Our forces are preparing to confront them.

New Landing Attempt, Losses

JN0912102888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1009 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 10, issued by the PFLP-GC

Battles are still raging between our valiant forces and the Zionist enemy forces in the Al-Na'imah, Shimlan, and Al-Damur areas. The Zionist enemy is trying to land additional troops by sea in the Al-Sa'diyat area to break the siege clamped on its forces by our comrades in the Al-Na'imah area.

The Zionist enemy also closed the coastal road in a bid to cut off rescue routes in a desperate attempt to break the siege imposed on its forces. Our forces are dealing with the Zionist enemy's new landing attempts from positions close to the landing areas, using various types of weapons. We are confident that our valiant forces will foil the enemy's new attempt.

Our information confirms that the Zionist enemy forces sustained several additional losses. Morale is high. God is with us and victory is definite.

Islamic Resistance Issues Call

NC0912095588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0938 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports, the enemy planes have launched three air raids in the Al-Na'imah hills in an attempt to break the siege of the surrounded Israeli detachments. meanwhile, the fighting continues in a number of areas where Israeli occupation forces landed, particularly in the 'Arumun hills and Al-Na'imah. It has been said that the resistance fighters downed an Israeli helicopter. This report has not been confirmed yet, however. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance has issued a call to its struggler units which operate in Jabal 'Amil and the western al-Biqa', and to all strugglers within the ranks of the emergency, military first aid, and civil defense units and in health centers to report to their units in view of the Zionist enemy's aerial, land, and naval aggression against the positions of brothers in the resistance movement along the coastal road and the mountain.

The call adds: Be prepared to confront and repel the aggression and participate in the honor of defending your homeland and brothers.

PFLP-GC To Use SAM-7's

NC0912100588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0940 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] We have just received a report saying that Israeli gunboats have been shelling the Khaldah-Al-Sa'diyat and the Al-Dibbiyah areas. A new PFLP group has gone to the battlefield. It has also been reported that 4 Israelis have been captured in the Al-Damur area and have been taken to the rear areas.

Since 1035, there has been an Israeli landing in Shimlan and another one in the 'Arumun area. The Israeli bombardment by the gunboats off Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur is still continuing.

At 1035, Israeli helicopters raided the Khaldah junction. This was followed by a landing attempt by the Israeli helicopters in the Al-Shuwayfat area. At 1048, an Israeli force was landed in the Al-Sa'diyat area. Groups from the PFLP have gone to the battlefield at 1035. At 1055, the situation was still the same in the Shimlan area.

Some reports said a short while ago that an Israeli helicopter was downed in the Shimlan area, but these reports have not been positively confirmed yet.

At 1059, the PFLP-GC asked its groups to use SAM-7 missiles against the Israeli aircraft. Reports said that a PFLP group has captured 3 Israelis. As we have noted, Al-Sa'diyat and Al-Dibbiyah areas have been bombarded since 1135 by the gunboats.

12 Raids Cited; Amal Mobilizes

NC0912101688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] A security source has reported that Israeli aircraft have carried out a total of 12 raids against positions of the resistance fighters and the PSP this morning. [passage omitted]

PSP sources reported that the Israeli forces were able to land troops in Bi'wirta, south of Beirut, at 0810 today following two unsuccessful attempts. The enemy forces clashed with the nationalist forces in fierce battles. [passage omitted]

The Amal Movement has declared general mobilization and a state of alert among its forces in the South and Beirut, especially since the Israeli occupation forces are massing troops in the occupied areas, particularly in areas adjacent to Al-Nabatiyah and Al-Rayhan.

5 Prisoners Moved to W. Beirut

NC0912102588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to a report we have just received, four Israeli prisoners were moved to the Beau Rivage Hotel in West Beirut in a Syrian military vehicle. The Syrian security cordon around the hotel was tightened. At 1200 today, an Israeli prisoner was also taken to the Beau Rivage Hotel in a Peugeot-504. The five Israeli prisoners were then taken in two Mercedes to an unknown destination.

30 Palestinian, PSP Casualties

NC0912103288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to information exclusive to our radio, 22 Palestinians and 8 PSP fighters were killed during today's clashes with the Israelis. An unknown number of

people were injured. Three Israelis were killed, including the officer whose name was mentioned by the Israeli military spokesman.

We have also learned that Israeli prisoners have been transferred in Syrian intelligence vehicles which took them through mountain roads to Al-Shuwayfat and then Hayy al-Sullum [in West Beirut].

Hizballah in State of Full Alert

LD0912111388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Islamic Republic of Iran reports that following the extensive operations of the Zionist regime, the Hizballah of Lebanon declared that it is in a state of full alert and has invited all reserve forces to immediately join the ranks of resistant forces. In the statement issued by the Hizballah, the Zionist enemy this morning began its extensive air, sea, and ground aggressions against Muslims on the coastal Beirut-Sidon route, and there is a need for all forces in various parts of Lebanon to be in a state of full alert to assist fellow combatants and crush the aggressions of the enemy.

Israelis Issue Ultimatum to PSP

NC0912110788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1102 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to the latest information we have received, the Israeli army has addressed an ultimatum to the PSP command telling them not to harrass the Israeli army in the area; otherwise, the Israelis will deal with the PSP gunmen militarily.

Fighting Halts; Hizballah To Help

NC0912112188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] According to the latest report we have received, the fierce fighting between the PSP, nationalist, Palestinian, and Syrian forces on one side and the Israeli occupation forces on the other has stopped. The Israeli forces had earlier landed commando units in the Al-Damur and Al-Na'imah areas. [passage omitted]

A Hizballah source has announced that the Hizballah leadership had contacted the brothers in the PSP, the PFLP-GC, the DFLP, and the chief of the Syrian observers team. The Hizballah leadership said that the brothers in the Islamic resistance are prepared to participate in the honor of defense and confronting the Zionist enemy's barbaric aggression. It declared that it is placing all its capabilities at the service of the heroic battle. Islamic Resistance groups have been deployed in areas near the mountain and coastal combat lines in coordination with those now on the battlefield in order to take up their positions in the honorable confrontation.

Syrians' Leave Canceled

NC0912112888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1117 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to new information received on the military operations in Al-Damur-Al-Na'imah area, a short while ago Israeli helicopters transported a number of Israeli soldiers from the battlefield under intense artillery cover from the Israeli navy cruising off Al-Damur coast.

On the other hand, the Syrian command has issued Order No 1 to all the Syrian occupation Army brigades and units deployed in all the Lebanese territories. The order was conveyed to the northern sector command in Al-Haykaliyah this afternoon. The order called for canceling all leave regardless of the reason, banning soldiers from leaving their positions, camouflaging artillery and tanks emplacements, and preparing and arming the antiaircraft weapon emplacements.

PFLP-GC: Siege Continues

JN0912113488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1116 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 11, issued by the PFLP-GC

Our forces, together with the PNSF factions' armed forces, are continuing their confrontation of the Zionist enemy forces in the Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur areas and the surrounding hills. The Zionist enemy again tried to evacuate its dead and wounded and to break the siege clamped on its forces, but its attempt failed as a result of our forces' valiant confrontation and its forces sustained further losses.

The Zionist enemy tried to penetrate our forces' ranks by sending trained and booby-trapped police dogs in an attempt to reach the defensive tunnels in which our forces are stationed. Our comrades, however, foiled the enemy attempt and killed the police dogs.

We will furnish you with new developments.

Monte Verde Crossing Closed for Blockade

NC0812204188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] After taking the inhuman step of closing the museum crossing 6 days ago, which further complicated matters, a new development emerged tonight to bring more and more pressure to bear on West Beirut. The Monte Verde crossing was closed.

Security sources tonight emphasized that the Monte Verde crossing was closed from the eastern side to the supply trucks leaving East Beirut areas, thus completing the supply blockade imposed on West Beirut, which began by the closure of the museum crossing amid a political and mass denunciation of this inhuman method which primarily affects the citizens' food supply.

Al-Asad Sends Cable to Gorbachev on Earthquake

JN0812195088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a condolence cable to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the earthquake which afflicted the Armenian SSR. The cable says:

We have received with great pain the news of the earthquake which hit areas of the Armenian SSR and resulted in numerous human victims and heavy material losses. While expressing—on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, in my own name, and on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Command—our codolences to you and to the friendly Soviet people, especially the people of the Armenian SSR on this natural disaster, I convey through you our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. I wish speedy recovery for the injured. I am confident your great people, under your leadership, will rebuild what has been destroyed by the earthquake.

Al-Asad Receives CSSR Defense Minister

JN0812194088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1230 today General Milan Vaclavik, CSSR national defense minister, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus. General Vaclavik conveyed to the president the greetings of Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; CSSR President Gustav Husak, and the CSSR leadership. The president accepted the greetings and asked the CSSR minister to convey his greetings to Comrades Jakes and Husak, the CSSR leadership, and the friendly Czechoslovak people.

During the meeting, discussion revolved around the horizons of bilateral cooperation in various fields. The CSSR minister expressed the appreciation of Czechoslovakia—party, government, and people—for the role of Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad in the struggle to settle problems and establish a just peace in the Middle East. He also expressed appreciation for its efforts in the field of development and construction.

Ba'th Party Holds Rally on 'Uprising' Anniversary

JN0812101888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Yesterday evening a speech rally in solidarity with the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied homeland was held on the passage of 1 year since its launching. The rally was attended by Comrade Muhammad Khalifah, Ba'th Party National Command member; Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, Ba'th Party Regional Command member; Comrade Sami Qandil, member of the Regional Command of the Palestinian organization [in the Ba'th Party]; a number of Palestinian national leaders and figures; and representatives of the Lebanese national movement and Palestinian revolution factions.

In his address to the rally, Comrade Salihah asserted that revolutionary Syria— with its people, its leading party, and its National Progressive Front, and also with the pioneering leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad and with its principled, consistent pan-Arab and national stands—has constituted a major and militant base. This base has supplied the general Arab situation with the terms needed to continue the conflict with the Zionist enemy. He said that he who stands with Syria also stands with Palestine and he who stands with Palestine is also standing with Arab Syria. Therefore, revolutionary Syria, along with the Arab masses, stood in the trench of struggle. Here we reaffirm our principled, consistent stand in the face of conspiratorial schemes, he added.

Comrade Salihah greeted every martyr who watered with his pure blood our cherished Arab land while confronting imperialism, Zionism, and their agents. He said: We are fully confident that a nation led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad is a firm fact, as is victory, regardless of time. The banner of victory will be hoisted high in our great Arab homeland, he added.

Also delivered were the speeches of the PNSF, the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, the Lebanese national movement, and the Arab liberation movements. Speakers lauded our kinfolk's heroic, tumultuous uprising in the occupied homeland. Our kinfolk are confronting the Zionist invaders with much courage and pride using sticks, stones, and Molotov cocktails, they said.

Speakers stressed the need for militant alliance between Syria and the nationalist Lebanese and Palestinian forces to foil all hostile schemes designed to undermine the Arab nation and its central cause, the Palestine question. They also condemned Saddam's fascist regime which supports the Zionized forces in Lebanon and hailed the valiant Lebanese national resistance in southern Lebanon—resistance which confronts the Israeli occupiers. They also lauded our kinfolk's steadfastness in the Golan.

Israeli 'Aggressions' Against Lebanon Viewed

JN0912142288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The escalation of the Israeli aggressions against Lebanese territory cannot be separated from the escalating plot to divide Lebanon by the Lebanese isolationist gang. The recent successive Israeli attacks against Lebanon may be aimed at diverting attention from the Israeli occupation forces' impasse in the occupied Arab territory.

However, it is certain that these aggressions are in tune with the escalating measures perpetrated by the 'Awn-Ja'ja' gang. These aggressions are coordinated with and serving these measures. It is noted that this gang, which always derives support from Israel and implements Israeli plans in Lebanon, is hailing these aggressions while paying lip service to Lebanon and to Lebanese security and territorial integrity. The setback that the Israeli aggressors sustained in their new attacks as a result of the stiff resistance of the Lebanese nationalist forces and the sincere forces constitutes a lesson if the Zionist gang wants to learn a lesson. The Lebanese nationalist forces, supported by all the honorable and sincere forces in Lebanon, are capable of repulsing the Israeli aggression and confronting the plots and intrigues of Israel's divisionist tools inside Lebanon.

And since the Zionist protectors of the isolationists have always discovered that aggressions on the Lebanese territory cannot be excursions, that such aggressions are very costly, the isolationists should also understand that continuing the implementation of the Israeli plot on the Lebanese territory is impossible. The Lebanese people and all the sincere and noble forces are capable of defending their territory and of repulsing the aggressors, foiling their plots, and defeating their ambitions. The Lebanese people are also capable of foiling the plot aimed against the security, Arabism, and territorial integrity of this country. They are capable of destroying the symbols and tools of this plot.

AL-BA'TH Views Najib Mahfuz' Nobel Prize

PM0812144488 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
28 Nov 88 p 5

[Suhayl Ibrahim article: "A Prize for All Arabs!"]

[Excerpts] Even before Najib Mahfuz dedicated the Nobel Prize he has won to all Arabs, the prize was indeed meant for all Arabs and for an Arab era that has tried through literature to illuminate its dark and foggy path and resolve the huge problems which our contemporary history has suffered both before and since independence. The prize also came as an opening on a horizon that seemed for many years closed to that isolated energy—the energy of the Arab, around whom the West has woven a series of lies and fabrications. [passage omitted]

It was not the Swedish Academy that discovered or invented Najib Mahfuz as a favor to a nation whose historical, human, and cultural influence has extended over two continents. In fact it was we Arabs who discovered Najib Mahfuz. It was we who read his work. It was we who lit his first candles in "Zuqaq al-Madaqq" [title of one his novels]. It was we who encouraged him to continue the dialogue of the age. It was we who granted him the first prize and decorated him with medals! This is because Najib Mahfuz is at the forefront of the great Arab artists of the age; because he knew early how to interpret our reality and devote his language and thought to the task of reflecting and boosting that reality; and because he has committed himself fully to the heated cultural conflict with oppressive forces against a nation seeking to live with the dignity it deserves. [passage omitted]

Did the Nobel Prize actually come late to the Arabs and Najib Mahfuz because political motives, which sometimes play a role, kept it away from the Arab sands, which are mixed with poetry and history?

This is not important, because the prize has reached the Arabs and Najib Mahfuz without any change in the Arab profile, history, or poetry and without the Arabs' walking the streets of Stockholm begging forgiveness in order for the arbiters of literature in Sweden to grant us recognition!

The prize is a testimony. This is true. The testimony is important, but apart from Najib Mahfuz's great influence over more than one generation in the Arab world, it is a testimony for those who have still not approached the essence of our language and its secrets, those who have denied our advancement in thought, science, and literature for 1,000 years. We have the capacity to compete even under the difficult conditions that we are experiencing. It is also a testimony for those who display ugly images of us to the world in order to improve Israel's image in the world's eyes. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Air Force Pilot Lands MiG-21 in Pakistan

BK0812132088 Hong Kong AFP in English
1249 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 8 (AFP)—An Afghan Air Force pilot Thursday defected and landed his MiG-21 aircraft at an airfield in the North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reported.

It said the pilot, named as Captain Asadullah, had surrendered himself to the Pakistani authorities. It did not elaborate.

Najibullah Reacts to Gorbachev Speech

LD0912071888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec 8, BAKHTAR—We consider the speech of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet at the 43rd UN General Assembly as an important historical event.

This was stated by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, in an interview granted here today to a BAKHTAR correspondent on M. Gorbachev's speech.

President Najibullah underlined that Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech once again showed that the Soviet Union is really in favour of establishing a durable and just peace which guarantees the interests of all mankind.

Regarding the proposals of Mikhail Gorbachev on the situation around Afghanistan it should be said that all the proposals are in full conformity with the thinking and policy earlier proposed by the Republic of Afghanistan in an aim to ensure peace in the content of national reconciliation.

We are in the same opinion with Mikhail Gorbachev that if the Geneva accords, whose fundamental and practical significance has been praised throughout the world, was honoured by the opposition, the process of settlement of the situation around Afghanistan could be completed even before the end of the year 1988 but this did not happen.

President Najibullah noted that the proposals of Mikhail Gorbachev is complementing the proposals earlier put forward by the Afghan leadership. For instance, the Soviet leader proposed a complete cease-fire, to be effective everywhere as of January 1, 1989. The same proposal was made by the Republic of Afghanistan right from the first day of the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation.

Linked to that, the Soviet leader proposed the stopping as of the same date any supplies of arms to all belligerent sides which is acceptable to the Afghan leadership, said Najibullah.

Another element in his speech about sending to Kabul and other strategic centres of the country a contingent of United Nation's peace-keeping force is also acceptable to the Afghan leadership.

We believe that the application of cease-fire and its verification by an authoritative international body paves the grounds through dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based coalition government, preparation for the convocation of a Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly, and the holding of elections in an aim to bring about a durable peace in the country.

President Najibullah also appreciated Gorbachev's request made to the UN secretary general for facilitating as early as possible the implementation of the idea of holding an international conference on the neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan.

While replying to another question regarding Al-Ta'if talks, President Najibullah stated that, as I have mentioned in my previous interview, in fact, the talks were the result of our previous direct and indirect contacts with the leaders of seven alliance, maintained through different channels. For us, the talks are not an unexpected event, but they are a logical result and gains of national reconciliation policy. There are two ways for solving problems—military and politically, all knows that the Republic of Afghanistan wants the problems to be solved peacefully. Particularly following the proclamation of national reconciliation policy we have repeatedly proposed holding talks with the oppositions.

Touching upon the delegation of seven alliance in the talks and of that why the alliance sent other representatives along [with] the alliance chairman as well, President Najibullah pointed to the fact that this alliance is lack of a unique course. Contradictions and differences among the participants of the alliance are clear to every one inside the country, clashes and bloody fightings are taking place between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jamiyat-e Eslami followers, such hostilities are also existed among them outside the country.

As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, we have been proposing peace to all, if the opponents reject it then the responsibilities will be borne by them.

In reality, the Al-Ta'if talks is the victory of the national reconciliation policy, in fact it is our victory that the opponents in spite of their inter-differences accepted to sit on a negotiating table. These talks are the result of common course and mutual cooperation between the RA

[Republic of Afghanistan] and the USSR aimed at ensuring of peace in Afghanistan. In the preparation of the talks, UN, other countries and personalities also played effective roles.

Leaders Send Condolences to USSR on Earthquake
LD0812233788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq have sent separate condolence telegrams to Moscow addressed to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The messages read:

With profound sorrow we heard the tragic news of the severe earthquake in the Armenian SSR, which caused heavy loss of life and material damage. On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the government, and the people of the Republic of Afghanistan, we express our profound condolences to your excellency, and through you, to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, the government and people of the USSR, particularly the bereaved families. We share the pain of the fraternal people of the Soviet Union.

Najibullah Calls For 'Demilitarization'
LD0812094288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 7, BAKHTAR—In a bid to create an atmosphere of confidence and to ensure a durable peace in Afghanistan, the leadership of Afghanistan has proposed the demilitarisation of Afghanistan and the collection of all weapons from the (?country's) [words indistinct] to its manufacturing countries. In this respect, reliable international guarantees are required and the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan should undertake specific commitments.

This was said by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, replying a question raised by a journalist of L'HUMANITE newspaper of France in a recent interview.

We believe, President Najibullah continued, that reassertion of Afghanistan's neutrality status and its demilitarisation is of substantial importance for the socio-economic development of Afghanistan.

Asking the view of President Najibullah about the United States seemingly position in favour of Afghanistan's neutrality status in Austrian model with international guarantees, President Najibullah replied that we have not yet received the official reflection of the United States in this respect.

Asked his view about those who do not comply with the political solution and keep continuing war, President Najibullah replied that if Afghanistan's neutrality status and its demilitarisation is determined as a result of which armed foreign intervention is to be ceased, that portion of the armed opposition which does not comply with the political solution will not be able to withstand and continue war for long.

Answering another question about the results and aftermaths of Pakistan's elections, President Najibullah suggested that the elections in Pakistan elucidated that the people of Pakistan did not cast their votes to military people. The people of Afghanistan shall welcome any steps to be taken by the new government of Pakistan towards the implementation of Geneva agreement as well as for ensuring a good neighbourly relations with Afghanistan, President Najibullah noted.

Najibullah, Entrepreneurs Discuss Private Sector
LD0912094088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 8, BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah, singled out the role of the private sector in the country's national economy and expressed satisfaction of the ever-increasing confidence of that sector on national sovereignty and the truthfulness of national reconciliation, which is associated with mutual cooperation. This was said by President Najibullah at a meeting held here today with private enterpreneurs.

Touching on the state's contribution with the private sector, he noted that the measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan for expanding [word indistinct] beneficial cooperation of the Republic of Afghanistan with the private sector and the provision of appropriate conditions for the promotion of that sector were greater than expected by the national (?entrepreneur).

Recalling the legal facilities provided by the state President Najibullah underlined that in the new proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan on the reassertion of Afghanistan's neutral status and its demilitarization, it has also been enunciated that they shall provide for the facilities to establish contacts with Western companies in an aim to [word indistinct] the opening of mixed enterprises in Afghanistan.

The Republic has afforded its support to private entrepreneurs for establishing economic relations with Western companies and the state is prepared to provide facilities for private and state investments to be made by the Western countries.

Elaborating on this role of national traders in the country's economic activity under the prevailing circumstances, he said that our expectation from the national traders is to give priority in their imports to primary commodities mostly required by the people. They should

supply to the market a substantial and adequate amount of foodstuffs and other mostly-needed primary goods against a reasonable profit. In doing so, they will (?move) towards the stabilisation of prices, prevention of speculation as well as filling the gap for primary materials required by their countrymen under prevailing circumstances.

Meanwhile, the private entrepreneurs set forth their suggestions aimed at uplevelling their activities in the sphere of national economy. The president of the Republic instructed the concerned organs to take appropriate measures on the traders' suggestions.

Najibullah Approves Decree on Districts

LD0812103588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The presidential office reported that the Council of Minister's government decree on the detachment of Sholgara, Keshendeh, and Char Kent Districts from Sar-e Pol Province and their attachment to Balkh Province, has been approved in the following text by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan:

The Council of Ministers' government decree No 11 dated 23 November 1988:

According to the provision of Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I approve the Council of Ministers' government decree regarding the detachment of Sholgara, Keshendeh, and Char Kent Districts from Sar-e Pol Province and their attachment to Balkh Province. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan is being commissioned to present this issue for approval to the first session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan. This government decree of the Council of Ministers should be remitted to the Ministry of Justice to be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Arab Adviser Killed; Attack on Kabul Foiled

LD0912102788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] One Arab adviser was killed recently and another was injured as a result of (?combat) operations carried out in (Khowaja Sabzpush) District, Faryab Province, by the Armed Forces. They were a part of a group of seven advisers from Arab countries who had come to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan to aid the Rabbani extremist group. [passage indistinct]

The brave Armed Forces have prevented the occurrence of a sad mishap in Kabul city. The BAKHTAR military section reported that 34 kg of explosives with [word indistinct] and 100 hand grenades which had been purchased in Kabul Province by the extremists attached to the Gulbuddin band for the purpose of causing an explosion in the crowded region of Kabul city, were discovered by the personnel of the Ministry of State security prior to the execution of this evil plan.

India

Prime Minister To Visit China 19-23 Dec

BK0812125688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is to pay a 5-day visit to China from the 19th of this month, the first by an Indian prime minister in the last 34 years. The visit is at the invitation of the Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng. In Beijing, Mr Gandhi will hold talks with Mr Li Peng and other Chinese leaders. He will also be visiting Xian before returning home on the 23d through Shanghai.

Several important agreements including one on cooperation in science and technology are to be signed during the prime minister's visit. The Chinese officials have described the visit as a major and historic event which will have positive effects on peace in the region.

Cambodia Issue on Agenda

BK0912080388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Kampuchean issue will be discussed with the Chinese leaders during the prime minister's forthcoming visit to China later this month. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in an interview to PTI in New Delhi today. /He said leaders of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore have appreciated India's role on this issue.

The minister, who returned after an 8-day trip to these countries, said they want India to play a prominent role in resolving the Kampuchean issue and in the post-settlement period. Mr Singh pointed out that Vietnam has decided to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. By the end of the year 50,000 soldiers would have left.

Gandhi Congratulates Gorbachev on UN Address

BK0812160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has conveyed his warmest congratulations to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, on his address to the United Nations. In a message, Mr Gandhi said that Mr Gorbachev has taken very far reaching initiatives which will contribute to a better international climate.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India is in favor of a strict and sincere implementation of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan by all countries concerned. It is in agreement with the Soviet Union about the need to put a stop at the earliest to the continuing bloodshed in Afghanistan. He said we believe

that the preservation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, and nonaligned character of Afghanistan is vital for a lasting solution of the Afghan problem.

The spokesman pointed out that Mr Gorbachev's speech at the UN General Assembly has put far reaching proposals aimed at reducing international tensions, creating a climate of greater confidence and tackling some of the most important global issues. He said India shares with the Soviet Union the vision of a nuclear-free and nonviolent world embodied in the Delhi Declaration. He said India welcomes the unilateral Soviet decision to reduce its conventional forces and armaments in Europe and hopes that it would illicit a favorable response from the international community.

Gandhi Sends Message on Armenian Earthquake
BK0812131988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has expressed distress at the tragic loss of life and damage caused by the devastating earthquake [in the Soviet Republic of Armenia]. In a message to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed his heartfelt condolences to those who have been affected by this tragedy.

More on Maldivian President's Departure Comments
BK0812161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The president of the Maldives, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has sought Indian assistance to train the Maldivian security personnel. Addressing a crowded news conference at the end of his 2-day visit to India in New Delhi today, Mr Gayoom said this will help safeguard the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. He said the issue came up for discussion during his talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Bilateral issues and SAARC matters were also discussed during the talks.

Mr Gayoom said he was fully satisfied with his discussions with Mr Gandhi. Mr Gayoom expressed deep appreciation to the Indian Government for the military assistance in quelling the recent coup by mercenaries in his country. He clarified that India had extended military assistance at his specific request.

The Maldivian president said his government will give top priority to improve its security system. He said the presence of the Indian troops in his country is temporary and they will remain as long as his government feels necessary.

Asked whether Maldives will sign a friendship treaty with India, Mr Gayoom said there is no need for such a treaty as several agreements between the two countries are working well. [passage omitted]

Envoy to UN Opposes Nuclear-Free Zone Resolution
BK0912091488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The UN General Assembly has approved a resolution endorsing the concept of a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia. India, Bhutan, and Mauritius voted against the resolution which was favored by 116 countries with 34 abstentions.

India described the Pakistani proposal as a ritual and said it lacks substance. The Indian delegate to the session, Mr Kamlesh Sharma, told the UN committee that New Delhi believes in a lasting world peace. This can be built only on the basis of general disarmament and a just international order. Mr Sharma said the highest priority should be accorded to the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Romanian Trade Protocol for 1989 Signed
BK0812162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] India and Romania have concluded a trade protocol for the year 1989 envisaging a trade turnover of 760 crore rupees. The protocol consists of 380 crore rupees by way of imports from Romania and an equal amount of exports from India to that country.

Iran

Majles Deputies Address Letter to Khomeyni
NC0812220888 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Nov 88 p 5

["Text" of a letter by "more than 90" Majles deputies to Imam Khomeyni—date not given]

[Text] To the auspicious attention of the grand leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow continue:

With greetings and salutations and wishes for the longevity and health of the great leader and the victory of Islam and the Muslims and with apologies for the inconvenience.

Representatives of the Islamic Majles have, for quite a while, been ambiguous about certain things, and especially with regard to the modus operandi [keyfiyat-e kaar] of the "Respected High Council for the Discernment of Interests." We seek your eminence's guidance with respect to this.

At the beginning of the operation of the above mentioned council it had been decided that the channel of operations had been formulated in such a way that, following a negative opinion by the Islamic Guidance Council, a Majles bill would be returned to the Majles,

where it would be reviewed and then sent again to the Islamic Guidance Council from where, if deemed necessary, it would be referred to the High Council for the Discernment of Interests.

However, this council performs legislative functions even now, and more importantly, the procedure for submitting bills to this council is bereft of all the preliminary formalities and not in accordance with the rules laid down for the proper routing of a legal bill. (A bill is introduced at a Cabinet session and, after it is approved and signed by the prime minister and the pertinent ministers, is presented to the Majles after which it must be debated at two sessions in the commissions and the open session of the Majles.)

Naturally, on the basis of this procedure, everyone (including irresponsible individuals) can present proposals to the Council for the Discernment of Interests and create new laws for the country and even contravene laws already approved. This may cause the proliferation of numerous contradictions in the laws of the country because the Majles will be rendered "non-exlusive." In general the presence of numerous parallel legislative bodies in the country will, in itself, generate problematic issues and cause systemic instability.

Therefore, it will be a cause of immense gratitude if you could state your views to the deputies of the Islamic Majles, who are proudly and consistently emulating the lofty status of your leadership.

[Signed] Qaribani, Hashemza'i, Nowruzi, Mir Walad, Majd- Ara, Hazrati, Asadi, Taslimi, Mozaffari-Nezhad, Qolizadeh, Shafi'i, Nowbakht, Shahrzad, Seyyed 'Esma'il Davudi, Nowruzi, Jami, 'Abdol 'Alizadeh, Morsali, Hemmati, Mohamadiyan, Seddiqi, Asghari (Seyyed Mohammad), Sobhanollahi, Aqa'i, Suri, Partovi, Nazaripur, Mrs Dastgheyb, Mrs Raja'i, Reza Zahi, Jalali, Pudineh, Forutan, Khak, Kharestani, Seyqali, Qasemi, Mahmudiyan, Rahmani, Fakhreddin Hashemi, Herati, Mohammad Haqqi, Fazel Hamedani, Rohanizadeh, Rahmati, hedayati, Mohaqqar, Babakhas, 'Abdol Hoseyni (Bandar Langeh), Mokhtari, Hejazi, Khalkhali, Musavi-Lari, Najaf-Qoli, Habibi, Asgharzadeh, Musavi-Tabrizi, Bayat, Sadduqi, hedayatollah Aqa'i, Majid Ansari, Hashemiyan, Salehabadi, 'Azizi, Nurbakhsh, Sedqiani, Duzduzani, Salamati, Hadi Khamene'i, Montajabnia, Ashrafi Esfahani, Alviri, Panahandeh, Hoseyni (Seyyed Mohammad), Behzadian, Ha'eri, Mo'ezzinzadeh, Tajgardun, Jahangiri, Razavi-Yazdi, Malek-Isa 'Abedi (Behbahan), Kabiri, Zamanian, Rahchamani, Eslami, Shar'pasand, Nowruzzadeh, Qazizadeh, Heydari, Ha'erizadeh, Zakeri, Vaqefi, Qomi, Rabati, Bahma'i, Dabestani, and [illegible signature as published].

Khomeyni's Reply to Deputies

NC0812221388 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Nov 88 p 5

["Complete text" of Imam Khomeyni's reply to Majles deputies' open letter—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With salutations. What you have written is absolutely correct. God willing, I intend the situation to be such that all of us will act according to the Constitution. Whatever took place in these years was with regard to the war. The interests of Islam and the system necessitated that the blind knots of law be speedily unraveled for the benefit of the people and Islam. I am grateful to you for your remarks.

I pray for all of you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Deputy Premier for Disabled Combatants Appointed

LD0812161688 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—In a decree issued here Thursday, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi appointed Mohammad Baqerian as his deputy for the affairs of disabled combatants. The decree also underlined the need for exploitation of all domestic resources in favor of disabled combatants and compilation of necessary regulations to solve their problems.

The premier also called on all the concerned revolutionary bodies and organizations to fully cooperate in this regard.

Majles Speaker Assails West on Human Rights

LD0912124488 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Majles Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday strongly attacked Western governments saying they had no right to criticize Iran on human rights when the West had violated it more than any other world block. Western governments were "liars and pretenders" when it came to defending the rights of nations, minorities and hostages and fighting terrorism, he stressed, but instead revolutionary Iran was the one under the West's criticism. "(The West) has commited an ocean of crimes against human rights," he said.

Dedicating much of his Friday prayers' sermon at Tehran University to this subject, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he wanted to discuss the issue in detail to unmask the real face of the West and counter massive propaganda against Iran.

The speaker and President 'Ali Khamane'i have in the past week defended the Islamic Republic's human rights record which has come under criticism from the United Nations.

In particular Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani rejected allegations that large numbers of political prisoners, namely members of the Iraqi-based Mojahedin (Monafeqin-e) Khalq Organization had recently been executed. President Khamene'i said those who were executed had committed crimes worthy of such punishment.

In his sermon Hashemi-Rafsanjani supported, with some reservations, the U.N. Human Rights Declaration as "truly one of the very good" achievements of social and political thinkers. But the problem was not the declaration but those who were trying to implement it. "If (the declaration) is enforced in a serious and healthy way and without malintentions and biased influences, the rights denied to a great number of deprived and oppressed peoples can be guaranteed."

"But unfortunately," he added, "this piece of work like most other good international work and foundation, only has a nice appearance—it is badly implemented."

A well-prepared document had fallen into the hands of world powers, especially the West, who were using it for their own ends. "Wherever it is in the interest of the arrogant powers, they will follow up the (human rights) case with determination. They are the ones who owe (the world an explanation) but it is as if we always owe them something," he said.

Terrorist groups who had bombed public and government places killing the highest officials, such as the president, the prime minister and ministers in the summer of 1982, as well as ordinary people were being funded by the West and given chances to propagate through its mass media. "Right now they are getting paid by America and the CIA," he said while the Western newspapers and radio stations interviewed their leaders, including monarchists.

And in Lebanon the plight of Iranian and Lebanese hostages were overlooked at the expense of Western hostages. four Iranian diplomats were being held by the Phalangist "servants of America and Britain" and Lebanese citizens were taken away and jailed by Israel, "America's illegitimate child." Yet only "your spies caught by the innocent people of Lebanon who are defending themselves" were getting all the attention and publicity.

On the rights of nations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that Western governments still controlled far-away territories as colonies. They supported dictatorships in Third World countries who allied themselves with the West. "In Saudi Arabia for instance, they don't have a parliament but America does not think it's wrong to do all sorts of investments there," he said and treated such states like the Saudi Kingdom as good friends.

On the rights of minorities, he cited a personal experience during a visit to the United States before the Islamic revolution to attack the way blacks were being treated there. When I myself went to one of these areas where the blacks live I wanted to yell out "Why are they living like this?". (They were living) in such poverty, such misery, such corruption, like poor animals squirming around.

"But," he added "next to them were the palaces of big companies one hundred, eighty, fifty storeys high."

In France and Britain, millions of Muslims were without a voice as they did not have members in parliament, but the much smaller but rich and powerful Jewish communities did. Turkish and Arab immigrants were given the worse jobs in Europe. But in Iran there were five Majles deputies representing Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians and Assyrians. Some had won a seat with less than five thousand votes but enjoyed the same rights as any other Majles member, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

He also blamed the West for problems facing the poor states, such as poverty and mass starvation in Africa. The West had not only taken away the mineral wealth of these states without developing their industrial base but had also crippled them by luring them into debt.

With the lack of freedom and democracy, the Eastern states were not ideal societies either, but the West was much worse. "The West more than any other block, and the Western leaders more than any other heads of state are responsible for the violation of human rights in the last few centuries," he stressed.

In another part of his speech the speaker backed the government's latest move to ease import regulations for a limited number of scarce goods. He said the Commerce Ministry's decision had not only opened the way for the import of needed items but also gave an open hand to those businessmen " who want to serve the people".

There have been a good number of import applications and certificates and in future other goods particularly those needed by factories would come off the restricted list since it was believed it was better to increase domestic production rather than imports. But he stressed that commerce officials should be "extremely careful" so that individuals would not make excessive profit that would make officials regret their decision on deregulation.

Prime Minister Discusses New Drug Law

LD0812120888 Tehran IRNA in English
0900 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—Drug traffickers will be dealt [with] severely once a new anti-drug law goes into effect as of January 21, 1989, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday.

According to the new law, the premier said, he will chair an anti-drug headquarters which will also include Prosecutor-General Hojj ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha, Interior Minister Hoj. 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, head of the Islamic Revolution's Committees Hojjat ol-Eslam Serajeddin Musavi, head of prisons and penitentiary organization and head of the special court for anti-drug campaign.

The law has been made in conjunction with the High Council in charge Of Matters of Expediency in order to coordinate actions taken by the judicial and executive branches against drug trafficking, Musavi told a press conference.

Because drugs are smuggled into the country mainly via eastern border strips and then taken to Turkey, Tehran will make coordinations with Islamabad and Ankara for tighter control of joint borders, he said. Premier Musavi stressed "it is necessary for Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to fully cooperate in this regard and seriously deal with drug smuggling."

On the budget of the anti-drug headquarters, Musavi said every executive institution of the headquarters has its own budget and that property of drug traffickers would be confiscated for the benefit of the body.

Asked about the role of Afghan refugees in smuggling drugs, the prime minister expressed hope that once a popular government comes to power in Kabul, Iran-Afghanistan border would be brought under firmer control.

Majles Speaker Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi
LD0812182788 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Tripoli delivered Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar Al- Qadhdhafi's special message to Majles speaker Hojjat ol- Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Thursday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazem Khonsari on a homecoming visit, also briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the outcome of the first joint industrial, economic, technical and cultural commission held in Tripoli last week.

Velayati Receives Syrian Envoy, Khaddam Message
LD0812122188 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—Syrian vice president's special envoy Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali [spelling of name as received] delivered 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's message to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday [8 December]. They also discussed the latest developments in the region and the two countries' desire to further expand mutual ties.

Al-Hajj 'Ali arrived here last night with messages from the Syrian Government for Iranian officials.

Velayati Comments on Afghan-Soviet Talks
LD0812181488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati, in a meeting this afternoon with leaders of the Afghan Islamic coalition, exchanged views about the situation of Afghanistan's military and political fronts and spoke about the region's political developments. About the Al-Ta'if discussions in [Saudi] Arabia, which were held between representatives of some of the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, he said: Afghanistan belongs to all that country's Muslim people and all sections of Muslims must take part in any decisionmaking; otherwise, such meetings will not yield much success.

On the proposal to station UN forces in Afghanistan after the Soviet forces withdraw, the foreign minister said: That is a proposal which must be examined and suitably answered within the framework of the realization of peace in Afghanistan and by the Afghan mujahidin.

Mr Velayati added: Afghanistan belongs to the Afghan people who have bravely stood in the face of events, after the withdrawal of foreign forces, they will be able to take control of their own destiny through unity.

Ties With Soviet Union To Expand 'Remarkably'
LD0912092188 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani who was in Moscow since Sunday to attend a session of the 11th permanent joint commission for economic cooperation, returned home early this morning.

Iravani in an interview upon arrival described his talks with Soviet officials, including Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov and Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev, as fruitful. He said he exchanged views with the Soviets in a "friendly atmosphere" and that his visit had paved the way for further expansion of economic ties.

An important achievement of the visit, he said, was an agreement to resume Iranian gas exports to the Soviet Union at an annual rate of three billion cubic meters. The export had been halted since 1981 after the two countries failed to agree on its price. Iravani said details of the agreement will be discussed by relevant officials from both sides within the next three months.

Among other agreements, Iravani cited the inking of a note of understanding for joint construction of two dams on the Aras border river, raising the production capacity of two power stations (Ramin in Ahvaz and Martyr Montazeri in Isfahan) by 1030 megawatts, and a plan to expand Isfahan steel mill whose annual production within the next six months, he said, would reach 1.9 million tons.

Agreements had also been reached to expand transportation cooperation as well as on construction of Sarakhs-Mashhad railroad in southern Iran, he said.

Iravani added that the two sides had signed a protocol in conclusion of the visit according to which trade exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union will be 'remarkably' increased.

"Our economic cooperation with the Soviets however will be based on mutual respect, good neighborliness and peaceful co-existence," the finance minister said.

Besharati, Lebanon's Shams al-Din Hold Talks

LD0812183388 Tehran IRNA in English
1747 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today discussed with prominent 'Alim Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din Lebanon's current issues. Besharati termed unity among 'ulema and other Muslim forces in Lebanon as a "major factor" for eliminating the regime occupying Palestine.

Shaykh Shams al-Din, the vice chairman of Lebanon's Supreme Shi'ite Assembly, arrived here on December 2, at the head of a delegation.

ICAO 'Delaying Judgment' on Downed Airbus

LD0812215488 Tehran IRNA in English
1830 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] London, Dec. 8, IRNA—The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) moved one step closer towards reneging on its responsibility by delaying judgment on the U.S. shooting down of an Iran Air passenger airliner over the Persian Gulf on July 3.

At the close of its meeting in Montreal Wednesday, the 33-nation governing council said it was sending its technical report into the massacre, in which all 290 passengers on board including 66 children were killed, over to an internal commission for review.

The decision draws parallels with the Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner in 1983 even though the circumstances are completely different. After sending its report to a technical committee, ICAO refrained from condemning Moscow.

Likewise, Council President Assad Kotaite admitted the representative countries at the meeting had discussed condemning the U.S. for its unmanly act.

According to the CANADIAN PRESS AGENCY, he said that some of the 33 nations had talked generally about only condemning "the use of force against civil aircraft" but no decision was made.

In 1983, the council eventually passed a motion which almost similarly deplored the use of military force against passenger planes.

Iran has no vote at the ICAO meeting but a delegation in attendance has urged on the need for the body, which sets standards for 159 countries on civil safety, to condemn the U.S. for its blatant act. Washington so far has refused to accept the responsibility for its criminal missile attack on the routine Iran Air—enroute to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas—Flight 655 nor taken any disciplinary action even though the ICAO report is at pains to suggest that it was caused by "errors" to cover-up the so-called U.S. negligence.

IRGC Commander Reza'i on Mobilization Plans

NC0812204388 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
30 Nov 88 pp 14, 15

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with ETTELA'AT, IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i recounted the plans and future objectives of the IRGC for mobilization in times of peace and reconstruction. He said: The imam's recent message to the officials, combatants, and people will bring about a new development in Islamic society. [passage omitted]

He said: It is clear that today our country is at a fresh juncture and we are entering a new phase of development which will be crystallized in the form of qualitative societal growth from the political, economic, cultural, and defense aspects. This qualitative progress is not possible without an earnest, motivated effort, and the message issued recently by the Imam has paved the way for the new development.

The various dimensions of this development are as follows: the renaissance of a pure Mohammadan Islam (peace be upon him); the salvaging of this Islam from all that is superfluous, and in complete accordance with the principle of "neither East nor West"; and the defense of our country by dedicated Hezbollahi forces. If we are successful in this phase, our society will show definite progress and be blessed with greater perfection. Under the aegis of this qualitative growth we will be able to forge ahead toward the future with greater energy and strength, and to attain our loftier ideals. [passage omitted]

Mohsen Reza'i said: In the present circumstances, our Basiji [Mobilization of the Oppressed forces] way of thinking can manifest itself in such a manner that all the people invest in the country's mother industries and thus contribute to the industrial and economic growth of the country. If the people practice austerity in their daily water and food consumption, the money saved through such austerity can be channeled into investment in these mother industries and thus strengthen them.

Regarding the growth in population, Mr Reza'i said: In the next decade our country's population will rise to 80 million, and in the future our oil income will not be able

to provide for our population. Lack of economic planning would cause major problems—and these include defense, security, social, and cultural problems—for our society in the future.

[Unidentified correspondent] Please tell us about the future status for the Basij in peacetime.

[Reza'i] According to the data, I think it is for the esteemed officials of the country and the Islamic Majles to compile the rules, regulations, and dimensions of the Basij, as well as the format of the Basij and the IRGC. This is what is needed in the country at present. In this manner, the boundaries of the organizations' jurisdiction will be delineated legally.

He added: We will formulate new laws as well, which will be sent to the Islamic Majles and [word illegible] acting commander in chief so that they may be implemented after ratification.

Regarding the objectives of the meeting of the IRGC commanders, Mr Reza'i said: The IRGC commanders' meeting was different this time. The commanders of the IRGC women's bases were also invited, so both our brothers and sisters participated. The people's mobilization commanders from Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq also participated. At this meeting, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council and the acting commander in chief addressed the audience and elaborated on the policy and future of the mobilization. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Please tell us the duties of the forces in a situation of "neither war nor peace." How long, in your opinion, will this state of affairs continue?

[Reza'i] The trend of the peace talks is not very clear. As a result, it is not known when there will be peace. However, the entire capacity of the Armed Forces should be utilized for the reconstruction of the country in some way or another, but definitely in a way in which its combat readiness is not harmed.

These two issues require intensive and integrated planning. In this regard, the IRGC's recommendations have been submitted to the country's esteemed officials, so that the resources of the Basijis and the IRGC may be mobilized to reconstruct the country without in any way detracting from their combat capability. Once this is approved, the IRGC will defend the country militarily and also play a dynamic role in the country's reconstruction.

[Correspondent] What about the future program for the IRGC's triple forces?

[Reza'i] The triple branches of the IRGC have two plans on hand for the future. The first consists of reconstructing, training, raising the level of their combat capability, and equipping them with their organizational needs, which, God willing, will be carried out successfully.

The second is the defense of the country's sensitive areas, especially in the Western part of the country where there is still a possibility of mischief-mongering by the Iraqi regime. We have specified their responsibility in this regard. Therefore, as before our able forces of Islam will be able to carry out their tasks of defending the country from the Persian Gulf waters to the furthermost point of our boundaries with Iraq in a steadfast and resistant manner. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the coordination between the IRGC and the Armed Forces, the IRGC commander said: With the setting up of a General Command Headquarters, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces is actively engaged in coordinating the IRGC and the Armed Forces. The scale of their unity is far higher than before. Formerly, the IRGC and the Armed Forces were expected to resolve problems by mutual consultation, and there was a possibility that they would not reach any consensus. Now, with the presence of the General Command Headquarters, we have reached consensus in most matters.

Regarding the facilities and assistance to be accorded to the combatant Basijis, Mr Reza'i said: The IRGC has submitted proposals to the officials for the welfare of these dear ones. In general, we plan to award certificates in military specialization or training to the Basiji forces.

These certificates will indicate the expertise, ability, and strength of an individual. All the details of this plan have been handed over to the officials. We have to discuss some of the minor details with the Ministry of Education, however, so that the Basiji combatants will be able to receive documented evidence indicating the kind of role they played on the fronts. However, there are also other facilities which will be awarded to the Basijis in the future.

Ministry of Commerce Eases Import Restrictions

LD0812162288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Continuing the project on participation of the people in foreign trade, the supervisor of the Ministry of Commerce has announced the list of the second category of goods which people can import without having to transfer foreign exchange. Please pay attention to the interview of our reporter with the supervisor of the Ministry of Commerce.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Vahaji, 2 weeks have passed by since the project allowing people to import certain items of goods without having to transfer foreign exchange was announced. Have you added additional items to the list?

[Vahaji] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The second phase of the project on people's participation in trade, in the form of not transferring

foreign exchange—which has been approved by the Reconstruction Council—is announced as follows: oil, hand, electric, and pneumatic tools, assorted steel parts, various kinds of industrial moulds and finally (?liquid five).

It must be said that only guilds cooperatives, relevant industrial units, employees and workers cooperatives, frontier people cooperatives, the frontier tradesmen, town and rural cooperative stores, guards cooperatives and qods cooperatives are authorized to import edible processed oil [shortening].

However, imports of unprocessed oils by individuals and companies is permissible through the supervision of the Council of Production and Distribution of Oil. Such importers, under the supervision of the said council, may sign an agreement with the oil refining plants to import unprocessed oil and then receive processed oil from the plants. The government will charge 25 rials per kilo as levy on importation of oil.

In the meantime, the importers are allowed to import industrial molds under the said project. These are molds which cannot be manufactured at home and which are necessary for manufacturing process of the importers.

The said project will go into effect next Saturday [10 December] according to terms and criteria which the media announced previously for imports of the goods under the first phase. The criteria covering imports of goods under the first phase would now cover imports of items under the second phase. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Private Sector Wealth Adversely Affects Economy

WA0912140288 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
23 Nov 88 p 14

[Article by Bahram Qasemi]

[Text] The huge volume of currency in circulation in the private sector, the increase in false investments, the unending participation of economic opportunists in commercial activity, and unproductive transactions have taken the stability and health out of society's economy, and the ill effects are being imposed on the poor.

Mediating and harmful efforts such as hoarding, stock speculation and inflationary investments have gradually decimated the trifling financial power of the common people and have brought on negative elements and phenomena in society.

Placing huge amounts of the nation's capital wealth in the hands of a small percentage of the people in society, their increasing currency holdings, and fluctuating economic policies signal the danger of the economic initiative passing into the hands of a few profiteers. The undeniable effects of economic power at the point implementation of economic policy has also led to the active presence of opportunist elements in economic affairs, and the failure to deal decisively with them will gradually diminish and ultimately erase the important and fateful role of the common people in supporting policies dictated by Islam and Islamic values.

It has been almost a decade since the Islamic revolution, conditions for the enormous growth of rapidly-spreading economic elements are still favorable, and the gulf between the well-to-do and the deprived classes has widened. The enormous advantages gained by the wealthy from public investments during the sacred defense and the sensitive phases of the revolution illustrate this reality. The problems arising from independence-minded policies only affected the poor and the masses of supporters of the revolution, while the leisure class and the gold-diggers went about their business without any sort of discomfort.

The prevailing nature and texture of economic activity, the confinement of commercial activity to the hands of a small part of society and their failure to comply with many of the government's economic policies at sensitive times brings on many problems, and if this is not met with resistance from the people it will be dangerous as well.

The people have stood for 10 long years against various imposed political and military tricks and lies, have destroyed plots with their resistance, and have even endured an economic embargo willingly and bravely, but how can they, with their declining financial power, stand against the black economic monster created by domestic fortune hunters, and how can they fight increasing inflation?

The past decade of revolution has taught us how the capitalists, with their fortune-seeking spirit, have played their negative role on the revolution's sensitive scene. They could have used their wealth to ease the load on the shoulders of the revolution and to take a positive step to establish policies for independence in the Islamic government, but instead, with economic trickery they drove and are driving the mills of the enemy!

The plunderers, opportunists, and owners of big and swollen capital must no longer be allowed to keep their fingers in the currents of the nation's economy and, by changing their methods and under various guises, to impose their invisible and sometimes visible domination on the oppressed people.

In order to fight economic plots in many sensitive and vital instances, the Islamic revolution necessarily needs a unified vision and policy. In this regard it is completely necessary to devise an economic policy in the government conforming with Islam's criteria against oppression and poverty and to clarify the government's general economic line. In this important matter, disparate reflections, conclusions, and tastes will thwart or delay the design of the policy and will certainly be damaging and

create more favorable conditions for unhealthy investments, or in other words, will become more vulnerable to attacks from opportunist profiteers.

It must be noted that the more the fearsome clutches of the big capitalists and their gold-digging policies cast their shadow on the middle- and lower-income classes, and the more the routes of escape from pressure and inflation are narrowed, the more favorable will conditions be for oppression and economic and social extortion. This is in conflict with the spirit of anti-oppression in Islam and our revolutionary people.

The policy makers of the economic system realize that testing economic theories whose negative results put pressure on the poor is not the way to alleviate intricate economic problems and reduce inflation; rather, the sword of struggle with the economic powers who threaten the nation's policies must be kept in mind by those from whom the cry of the leader of the revolution is always heard.

Majles Discusses Needs of Workers, Farmers

WA0912154588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—The public session of the Majles convened this morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During this session deputies from Nowshahr, Bostanabad, and Shahr-e Kord discussed the government's basic concern for the condition of workers, staff, farmers, and drivers and the procurement of their primary needs, the prevention of interference in the nation's affairs by unauthorized individuals, the government's dealings and decisiveness with such persons, the replacement of governors, the request that a delegation be sent to the area, and matters pertaining to their electoral districts.

Also, during this session the deputies from Khomeyni Shahr and Borujerd were sworn in. The project to designate the status of properties from government and municipal projects returned from the Council of Guardians, the details of the Reform Bill, and Note 2 of the bill to separate the Rahgostar Company from the Iran Industrial Reconstruction Organization were approved. Also the bill to preserve the credibility of registration documents and preventing them from becoming unstable was approved.

The full report on today's public Majles session appears below.

Speech by Nowshahr Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker for today's public Majles session was Farjollah Afrazideh, deputy from Nowshahr. He thanked the imam for banishing the Great Satan from Islamic Iran forever and issued a warning to the clergy: The East and West have girded themselves to destroy you and Islam. In view of the imam's brotherly statement, we must put aside our differences and solve the people's problems. Of course, they say that the apparent reasons for these disagreements are differences in taste, and there are people who do not accept any of you and have only taken refuge with some of you to protect their own position. When they have been able to remove some prominent persons using your unstinting support, they will come after you as well.

In this regard, he discussed the efforts that have been made and are being made to publicly discredit the president and the speaker of the Majles. Then he warned those holding key positions to refrain from aligning themselves and forming factions and gangs, not to lay the groundwork for hypocrisy, not to be the cause for destroying the believing forces of the revolution, nor to replace them with treacherous opportunists and lowly criminals.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker added: I know people in my district who were heads of the Urban Organization and members of the Rastakhiz Party a few years before the revolution. However, after the triumph of the revolution, they associated themselves with certain prominent individuals, brought their children into the struggle, and by putting on a false religious face, growing a beard with no roots, without having taken a single blow for the revolution, they planted themselves squarely in the midst of the revolution, pretending to be from a purely revolutionary family of seven generations. Unfortunately, there is a strong market for superficiality.

Afrazideh then said: In accordance with the imam's guidance, you must give positions of responsibility to persons who have tasted the bitterness of poverty and deprivation, and make your criterion of selection specialized competence combined with passion for Islam and the revolution. Unfortunately, however, there are people in many positions who have neither specialized competence nor sufficient experience. Neither are they blessed with commitment and piety, and their dealings with the people are quite abrasive.

Later in his talk, the Nowshahr deputy discussed the imam's command to save the deprived and help the low-income classes, as well as remarks by the nation's officials concerning support for the deprived. He said: A significant step has yet to be taken in this regard and I do not know who is preventing relief of deprivation for the oppressed. The nation's wealth is in the hands of 10 percent of individuals in the society [as published] and the wealthy. Is it correct to sacrifice 90 percent of the people in society for them?

The speaker added: For 14 centuries, since the caliphate of 'Ali (peace be upon him), we have been telling the people that Islamic government means the establishment of social and economic justice. The time for talk, promises, and threats is past. The work must get underway without noise, fanfare, or commotion.

Afrazideh then noted: So far, what the insiders have put forward to improve the lot of the deprived has done nothing but add to the wealth of the rich and increase abuses by pagan opportunists, while nothing has come to the deprived. He said: Instead of the just distribution of wealth, the deprived have received in return poverty, affliction, unemployment, and aimlessness.

He added: The government must provide the people with an abundance of necessary goods, and do some basic thinking for the workers, employees, and the unemployed as quickly as possible.

He added: All the officials are constantly calling on the imam, and in order to perpetuate and preserve ourselves and the flames of dispute we have ignited, we must trouble the imam constantly to have him validate this or that gentleman, this or that faction, in order for him or it to remain.

The speaker then called upon the Expediency and Discernment Council to change the form and content of the government penalties and the authorized agents. There must be proof for the council to determine whether a person (an authorized official to issue government penalties), with certain executive qualifications, was not only unsuccessful, but acted to the detriment of the revolution and the people. Prices were not lowered, nor were high prices prevented. Has there been any result other than theft, treason, abuse, hoarding, and goods at several times the actual price, prior to the existence of the sales penalties? Only the small businesses have been fined heavily, but not the slightest harm has been done to the ruffian billionaires.

Afrazideh then stressed: I have given up on the pertinent officials. I ask the imam to choose a council to investigate those persons who have built a life of excess through theft and trickery, to prosecute all of them, to take all the money and property away from them and return it to the public treasury.

In conclusion, continuing this subject, he said: I know people in my district who, with modest salaries, have built buildings worth several million tumans in these last few years. They have joined hands with a few thieves, and they leave a clean trail behind them. Unfortunately, however, they have received support from some provincial officials as good religious people, and if these people are not stopped it will truly be a tragedy.

Speech by Bostanabad Deputy

Today's second pre-agenda Majles speaker was Mohammad Esma'il Delbari, the deputy from Bostanabad. He began his talk by expressing respect for the Islamic revolution's shrouded martyrs and, affirming unity of speech in society, he called divisiveness and dispersion a great crime against Islam.

He said: The presence of a leader in society is a blessing from God, and if we cannot solve society's basic problems when we have a Majles of partisans of God, especially in the economic dimension, we have commited a great sin, and we will not be forgiven by future generations of the Islamic nation.

The Bostanabad deputy mentioned the Islamic Republic's role in presenting a suitable model for an Islamic economy in the modern world, and called upon Islamic scholars to set direction and limits for Islamic economy.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker cited basic changes in the administrative offices as the most important duties. He added: The intricate administrative system, the bribery, the embezzlement, and connections in place of regulations have brought heartache to the nation of partisans of God.

Today, another topic of Bostanabad's deputy concerned planning in the agricultural sector in order to prevent rural migration to the cities, as he called upon the hard-working government, to procure the tools and primary needs for the farmers.

He mentioned the potential talents of the people and the appreciation of the experts and specialists. He affirmed the need for real planning in various sectors such as industry, for the employment of creative manpower in order to eliminate the need for foreigners.

Elsewhere in his speech, Mohammad Esma'il Delbari noted the necessity for planning to provide practical support for the deprived. He said: Now, while the loafing gold-diggers are adding to their hoards every day, on the other hand the oppressed, the true owners of the revolution, are under economic pressure, especially regarding high prices. It should be considered a duty to decisively prevent the ugly actions of these greedy people.

In this regard, he called upon the nation's three branches of government to make efforts to bring about Islamic justice and fairness in the society.

Concerning the collection of taxes, the speaker said: The extremely wealthy must be sought out, not the small businessmen who cannot even earn their own living.

Praising the hard-working support of various classes of people, including the workers, the farmers, the employees and others, for the appropriate ministry, he asked that their principal difficulties be eliminated.

Affirming unity in decision making, observation of the law and preventing interference by unauthorized individuals in vital affairs, he considered it a Majles responsibility to supervise and study in detail the quality of work done by organizations and to deal with the matter decisively, and he said that naivete in these areas would create bad elements.

The Bostanabad deputy warned against selfishness, various tastes, and extravagance and waste in society. He said:

Come and let us get behind our dear imam in order to feel the delight of victory in the dimensions of life. If we had acted upon his holiness the imam's words, without modification or reduction, we would not have all these problems today.

Mentioning the problems in his electoral district, the Bostanabad deputy expressed thanks for the people's presence in the third Majles elections.

Speech by Shahr-e Kord Deputy

The public Majles session's third and final pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Ra'isi, the deputy from Shahr-e Kord. He said: His holiness the imam issued a brotherly statement, and commissions have now been formed to study the brotherly statement.

He added: Do not allow the brotherly statement to remain a mere slogan while we do something else in practice. If we want to succeed, we must learn from the experience of the past and take the guidance the imam has given into consideration. We must not allow someone to destroy all the investments of the revolution under the cover and shadow of a political faction and intellectual trends. We have few of these investments. It makes no difference what faction it is; all of these people support the dear revolution and if we abuse such people, we do not know where our future will go. Thursday I was listening to the Majles speeches on the radio.

God knows when I heard what was being broadcast from the Majles tribune I was ashamed. I want to say to the dear brothers—of whatever intellectual faction: Why do you allow these things to be broadcast from the Majles tribune? The speaker that day was saying: As the brothers know, the Ministry of the Interior has decided to fire an official, no matter how knowledgable and pious he is. What does this mean? Are the Jews in the driver's seat?

Or take his statement: The appointment of unqualified and inexperienced persons in political affairs is one of the Ministry of the Interior's regular practices. Why do we allow such things to be said? Mr Mohtashemi and other dear ones who are now officials in the nation were companions of the imam, they spent time in prison. Whatever we have is a ransom for their imprisonment and suffering. Why do we allow them to be slandered from the sacred tribune of the Majles? Supporters and loyalists and people who have invested in this revolution, if I am standing here it is because you went to prison, you were more passionate than I was, do not allow us to deal with issues in this way.

He then discussed the issues of Farsan. He said: The Ministry of Interior has sent a governor to Farsan. A group of people came and said a governor must not come, we do not want an imposed governor (murmuring in the session). We went there and said: What is happening? The people had turned out in force and even slaughtered a sheep, praising the minister of the interior and the imam and no one asked even one question. What were the problems then, we asked. Who were the people who said they did not want a governor? Truly, if our problems in the government are to be solved in this way I do not know what will become of us.

In conclusion he said: The following points must be studied:

1. In this regard they must answer: What is the relationship between the contents of the underground leaflets and the instigation of the people and the pre-agenda remarks of Thursday's speaker?

2. The minister of intelligence must precisely identify the agents of this unsavory activity and deal with them legally and seriously for the rest of society and to preserve the law.

3. I invite the ministry and command of the Revolution Guards to send a team to that province to study Revolution Guard affairs, and likewise study and report on the reason for the arrest, detention, beating, and wounding of a 60-year-old Farsan man.

4. The Ministry of Education and Training must quickly study the reason for closing the schools and bringing the students into the streets and punish those who are responsibile.

5. Mistaken information and reports on the area's situation have been submitted to the president's office, and I will inform him of this orally.

6. The remarks of the province's political deputy in a pre-agenda speech, with his vigorous denial, will be printed in KEYHAN's Majles report tomorrow.

Kalantari on Disciplinary Forces, Cleanup

WA0912141588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Nov 88 p 14

[Interview with Mokhtar Kalantari by KEYHAN; date, place not given]

[Text] KEYHAN Social Service—Mokhtar Kalantari, acting commander in chief of the komitehs [Islamic Revolutionary Committees], gave an exclusive two hour interview to KEYHAN stating his views concerning the recent seminar for komiteh commanders, the project to combine police forces, combining the Jamshid and Halabiabad Districts, projects and practical ways to combat narcotics, the project to combat religiously forbidden behavior, and the relationship between the people and the komitehs.

KEYHAN: What is your assessment of the results of the recent seminar for Islamic revolutionary komiteh commanders?

Mokhtar Kalantari: This seminar is annually held on a nation-wide basis. Every year subjects are studied in this seminar. Among the subjects discussed last week in this gathering was the method of implementing and practically coordinating action on the Expediency and Discernment Council with regard to narcotics. According to the discussions, all the brothers declared their readiness, in the event that the law is distributed for implementation, to make efforts with all our resources to achieve its goals. The second topic was a study of the project to combine the Islamic revolutionary komitehs, the police, and the Gendarmerie.

The results of this project were analyzed and studied and in this regard the commanders also declared, should the acting commander-in-chief of forces so decide, that their komitehs are prepared to act constructively and with unity alongside all the police forces. I must note that each of these three forces is extensive, but there are other police forces such as the judicial police, the Prisons Organization, the ports and customs police, and others which are not so extensive. I n any case, while all the police forces receive services from the government, the services they provide are not uniform, and concerning this matter, just as I said, the komiteh brothers declared their readiness to create a believing and compassionate police force.

KEYHAN: To what extent, in your view, is the emergence of neighborhoods such as Jamshid, Halabiabad and Tehran Pars due to the lack of control of haphazard migration?

Kalantari: It is not 100 percent true that I consider the emergence of neighborhoods such as Jamshid and Halabiabad as one of the ill effects of migration. Of course, migration could be one of the factors in their emergence, but all the factors are not limited to this one thing. Before that, I must say that the roots of the nation's disorders are in the failure of officials to deal decisively with violators. This is a basic element in the lack of komiteh success and has a role in the performance of their mission. After the revolution we identified and captured many gangs who were counterfeiting documents, but we see that in wartime one of the nation's chief problems is counterfeiting cards of completed military service or government documents, or regarding food—whenever ration coupons appear we can see that counterfeit coupons are a crippling problem for the nation.

Therefore, at the same time when most people are suffering from inflation, why shouldn't our officials make a serious decision in this area? Why, despite the fact that all these criminal gangs are captured, do counterfeit coupons and cards of completed military service appear days later? What is the reason? Why aren't the counterfeiters dealt with? Why aren't the carpet smugglers dealt with seriously? He added: In our view, the failure to deal seriously with society's criminals is the basic cause of violators abusing freedoms and by repeating their actions, they reveal the blind spots of officials. When a ration coupon counterfeiter allows himself to counterfeit documents, what will we conclude about the creation of a policy with ration coupons, or if cards of completed military service are to be counterfeited, what can we conclude about programs such as the draft and the intensification of punishments for draft dodging? Dangerous conditions are developing in our nation today, and they are in need of a decisive position from our officials.

The people ask how the official of the Prophet's Foundation will be dealt with, how the acting director of SAIPA [company] will be dealt with, and the komiteh brothers ask why the carpets they confiscated with so much effort are being returned to their owners, and want to know what good their efforts did. There is no answer we can give them. Ultimately, they will stop these efforts. Today our society hungers for decisive decisions from our numerous officials. In a general assessment concerning narcotics, the komiteh concluded that 80 percent of the people want Mr Khalkhali to come back to fight narcotics. Therefore, we infer from this that the people need decisiveness. Recently the leader of a narcotics distribution gang admitted that he has distributed 75 tons of narcotics, while the people are expecting us to search for 75 grams.

Reason for Destruction of Jamshid and Halabiabad Neighborhoods

Continuing his remarks, the acting komiteh commander said: As the Jamshid neighborhood has functioned as a center of corruption since before the revolution, it must be dealt with forcibly, however much this reduces the results of our work. Therefore, the komiteh went to work. In accordance with a previous plan, its subsequent stages were to have been carried out as well, but unfortunately, the rest of the komiteh's plan was not carried out bacause of a lack of cooperation from the National Quality of Life Organization. Despite their promise to cooperate, in practice this did not occur, and there was no choice but to carry out the rest of the plan with the decisiveness of the minister of the interior and the revolutionary prosecutor. Ultimately, there were very positive effects.

Because I know about the harmful tragedies that are occurring in the Jamshid neighborhood, I will relate an example to you. Recently, when I went to Qasr prison, I saw a 21-year-old youth who had committed 9 murders. When I inquired about the reason for the murders, I realized he was born in the Jamshid neighborhood, and that because of his bad character and unwholesome upbringing and environment, as well as complexes he had developed, he would take homeless women outside of Tehran and kill them. Therefore, there is no doubt that the Jamshid section ought to be destroyed [as

published]. However, after it is destroyed, there must be another neighborhood to take care of them (the women) so that the same problem does not surface.

I must say that we have a project whereby we will provide a neighborhood group to take care of these women, most of whom are weak, oppressed, and helpless people in society and could take care of themselves with decent employment. Therefore, there is need for a real plan and the komiteh is fully prepared to carry it out. Our only problem is the komiteh's isolation and the lack of cooperation from the appropriate officials. Mokhtar Kalantari then discussed the destruction of Shahr-e Halab. He said: Halabiabad is not like Jamshid. Just as you mentioned, one of the reasons this place appeared is the result of haphazard migration and the failure to regulate such migration by the government, but here the komiteh noticed that the distribution of narcotics in the city is done by a few people from this district.

The komiteh also confirmed major incidents involving religiously forbidden behavior on the part of some of them. It was learned that many living in this neighborhood had incomes equal to the average income of other people in our society, therefore they established residence there to abuse the situation in this neighborhood. There are also people without bad intentions who remained there due to their poverty, and plans are for the government to provide them with resources. Some of them who were criminals have been arrested and will be punished because of their criminal record.

Of course, concerning areas like Halabiabad, it must be said that their existence is inappropriate and damaging for our Islamic Republic. One of our main problems is weak planning and decision making, and were it not for these two things we would not have such problems.

KEYHAN: What effect will opening the door to music, in accordance with the religiously prescribed limitations as stated by the imam, have on the quality and quantity of problems with religiously forbidden activities? And in this regard how do the revolutionary guards of the komiteh clean up other types of religiously forbidden activities?

Mokhtar Kalantari: Concerning music and similar issues, our society is faced with a problem, and that is the lack of a codified view on implementation. Unfortunately, problems developed after the war. It did not allow officials to make codified plans concerning music or veiling. What is clear is that the officials must give a decisive opinion concerning the type of music.

We propose that first of all, coordination be established between implementation and propaganda and second, that a specific point of view should be adopted for officials so that propaganda and executive officials will be held accountable for their actions.

This is why the revolutionary guards komiteh do not have limits on their dealings in missions like this, saying what type of music is acceptable, otherwise there will be incidents over the type which has been commonly established.

KEYHAN: What is your assessment of the level of the relationship between the Islamic revolutionary komitehs and the people?

Mokhtar Kalantari: Our people know that there have been striking changes made both in the komiteh makeup and in its way of relating to the people, and the general assessment shows that the people are now more optimistic concerning the position of the komitehs. The komiteh command and its officials are now paying great attention to this matter. Every kind of service and mission performed by the komitehs is interpreted in the framework of service to the people. The imprisonment of a lawbreaker and the punishment of a criminal are like the act of a surgeon when he saves a patient from death with his knife. It has one effect. To whatever extent we can stop the behavior of an accused person who has turned to crime, to that extent we have been able to serve him.

Therefore, the point of view of officials when dealing with the people is as I have described it, but there are also several points which must not be overlooked. One is that the kind of crimes the komiteh deals with are such that after his release, a criminal may level accusations at the komiteh, saying for example that he was arrested with ill will, and he may to spread negative propaganda. Another point is that by dealing constantly with criminals in society, we unknowingly thwart the opposite effect. Usually, police work is of no concern to people anywhere in the world, because their work is to deal with criminals. We are therefore constantly thinking about what we can do so that the komiteh will always remain a revolutionary organization.

This is why the komiteh college was quickly started so that, through training, we would send the revolutionary guards into society more fully prepared. We have stressed repeatedly that the people are the very ones coming and going in the streets, alley ways, and other public places, and that it is our duty to respect them. However, the revolutionary guard komiteh must deal with the criminals of society. Despite this, it is possible that, God forbid, a brother who is guilty or not guilty might be dealt with improperly. For such incidents the komiteh has the Central Legal Staff, and it studies any complaint from the people in the shortest possible time. Another point is that we expect to establish tight komiteh press and propaganda relations with the people in order to set down our planning based on the views of the people. This is a komiteh shortcoming that, God willing, will be eliminated with the imam's recent directive to the effect that the komitehs must have radio and television programming. We likewise expect the media to help us overcome this shortcoming by reflecting the views of the people and the komitehs.

KEYHAN: How do you study problems, and in your view, what is the status of narcotics as a crippling political and social problem, and in what way can it be fought?

Komiteh's acting commander: There is a difference between research into problems and a study of their causes. For example, to deal with the roots of economic or political crises is not the same as dealing with social and cultural crises. We believe that a comprehensive point of view is not the same as a solution. Yes, in general it may be said that economic crises have an effect on all crises, but saying that will not relieve the pain. We must have a special prescription for every patient to eliminate the illness. It is my belief that lack of planning, poor management, and the failure to make decisive decisions are the main roots of every kind of problem.

Various Views on Anti-Narcotics Campaign

Concerning narcotics and addiction it must be said that this very issue is one of the greatest social disorders afflicting the people. Concerning the anti-narcotics campaign, as in other matters, there is no unified view. Of course, the komiteh has a small share in this matter as the enforcer of decrees from religious magistrates and an official in the anti-narcotics campaign, and after studying the views and plans of the people and the officials, it has reached a specific and documented point of view. I will now give you a brief account of the views I have heard from our dear officials and people. The first view reasons that if the people's culture is promoted and the people know the problems and difficulties arising from addiction and are aware of its bad effects, narcotics will disappear from society automatically.

Therefore, in order for narcotics not to exist and addiction to disappear, it is enough if we only do cultural work. Another view says that we do not produce narcotics in the country, and that if we produce narcotics ourselves and allow them to be cultivated, then we ourselves will distribute them. In this way, we both prevent the export of foreign exchange and the costly merchandise that is being sent out of the country and we prevent the increase of addiction by controlling the distribution of narcotics. Finally, the fact that narcotics are not produced in our country is an imperialist design. The third view believes in dealing with the matter forcefully and executing smugglers.

The reasoning is that early in the revolution when Mr Khalkhali was responsible for this task, there was a sharp decrease in narcotics dealings, and there is no way other than execution now. The fourth view proposes a scientific campaign, and says that narcotics should be distributed to addicts using a coupon system, then as we gradually reduce the narcotics ration, we will get them all off drugs in time without their noticing. The final view also believes in dealing with the matter using physical and police methods. The proponents of this view reason that because narcotics come from abroad, it is enough simply to close the borders. In that case narcotics would not come into the country and neither would there be a need to increase penalties. Continuing his answer, Mokhtar Kalantari said: However the komiteh's view, after studying these views, is that if a plan is to be comprehensive and complete it must have these characteristics:

A. Close the borders, for if this is not done, we will not be able to control narcotics in any way;

B. Increase punishments for smugglers, for if they are not executed we will never be able to close the borders; and

C. Do cultural work, because cultural work is necessary if the first two items are to bear fruit.

I must say to you that at this time narcotics, due to their political roots and the damage caused by addiction, have become such an acute problem that they demand a decisive decision from officials.. Currently, 60 percent of our prisoners were arrested in connection with narcotics, the 40 percent increase in the divorce rate is the result of addiction, and the country suffers 500 billion rials in economic damage every year in this way. Now the question is: Isn't it time we made a serious decision? I declare that the komitehs are fully prepared to implement a decision from officials, and I also predict that if a comprehensive law for stipulating interests is implemented, within 2 years narcotics will be reduced by 80 percent.

What Are Limits on Religious Restrictions?

KEYHAN: Exactly how far do religious restrictions and limitations extend into society?

Mokhtar Kalantari: The basic problem is that we still do not have a unified view of our own limitations and responsibilities. The word for religiously unlawful acts is a general term, and when we speak of combating them, what is a religiously unlawful act? What acts in society are seen as religiously unlawful? The law has restricted the komiteh to dealing with crimes that are mentioned in the Penalties Law. So many of the expectations that the people have of the komitehs are unrelated to them. Improper veiling is not a komiteh concern, no matter how much the people expect it, and neither is there an authority in the country other than the komiteh to deal with it.

It is not the business of the komiteh itself to deal with improper veiling or dress as a direct responsibility. The discussion is really about what plans the komiteh should have under these circumstances and what it should do in incidents of religiously unlawful behavior. In answer I would say that the komiteh has reached special decisions in this regard. For example, we have a plan regarding the sea, which we have begun to implement in the north. Under this plan, women and men will be able to make use of the sea in a desirable way so that religious

violations will not take place. Of course, this project will be implemented as a pilot program, for it is beyond the capacity and responsibility of the komiteh to invest in it and expand it.

Our second project concerns obvious crimes, for which we have no problem. The third project or instance concerns improper veiling. We have come to believe that at most 10 percent of the solution to improper veiling should be achieved by force, and that 90 percent of the task is cultural rather than police work. It is not right that we resort to force without understanding the cultural impediments. For this purpose special priority is given to expanding sound radio and television programs, valuing the expansion of parks and sound recreational centers, cinemas, and theaters, and investment in exercise.

In general we must understand the problems of the nation's youth, who are in a special crisis phase. We must fill their free time in such a way that it will promote the growth and development of their talents. If we cannot fill this void, we will certainly be faced with an onslaught of Western propaganda, and this is where the physical approach produces the opposite effect. The komiteh's view is that the people must be committed to the commands of Islam and their implementation, and that they must observe Islamic precepts in public so as not to be disrespectful to the beliefs and aspirations of the 98 percent who voted for the Islamic Republic.

Therefore, in order to avoid violent confrontations, one can discipline unworthy persons by depriving them of the government's public resources, such as banning them from the university, banning them from employment in government offices, or firing from their office jobs some of those who continue their violations after repeated warnings. Sanctions must be applied especially regarding the private institutions, many of which have been converted to places of corruption. For example, an institution that promotes corruption could have its quotas cut or be shut down. We even believe that to avoid violence the use of prohibitions on the use of government facilities would be an effective weapon.

Further implementation of this decision could include closing down some of the boutiques or hair salons with unwholesome practices, and finally prohibiting the issuance of economic mobilization booklets to such persons. In continuing this project, the komiteh believes that if these sanctions and prohibitions are implemented through executive guidelines, then only five percent of crimes would require police action, and there would be no need for patrol cars in the streets to deal with improper veiling. Of course, such approaches and sanctions are not something to be implemented in Iran only. Such programs exist in many nations of the world.

For example, in Turkey the Majles deputies are not allowed to enter the Majles without ties, and so forth. In any case, numerous examples may be found where, with specific programs and the distribution of executive guidelines, a sound approach may be taken toward corruption. Of course, the campaign against religiously unlawful behavior does not encompass all of our views, and we feel that there is room for criticism and study, but I simply wanted to say that the komiteh has a unified view concerning religiously unlawful behavior.

The acting commander in chief of the Islamic revolutionary komitehs, continuing his answer to these questions, discussed the lack of coordination between propaganda and implementation. He said:

Unfortunately, due to lack of unified views on the part of executive, judicial, and propaganda officials, usually they thwart each other and positive results have not come from their efforts. For example, with regard to sheer stockings, the komiteh believes that both their production and sale should be stopped, but some respected officials take the view that there is no problem in religious law for the production and sale of stockings of this type; and what are the actual limitations on improper veiling? To what extent do they apply? Is a veil a chador or a mantle? Is clothing brought from abroad despicable and religiously unlawful? Each and every one of these matters is a problem for whose solution there is no unified procedure in practice, in the judiciary, or in propaganda. So far no unified view has been conveyed to us. Everything has been general commentary, while no specific view has been presented on details. Inevitably, in the test of implementation, encounters are a matter of taste.

On the one hand, the responsibility for prevention, reform, and providing training is on the shoulders of the judicial power, but so far they have had no program while the komiteh has a small share in this matter. On the other hand, it is not clear who is responsible for reform. What organization has cultural responsibility? The Voice of the Islamic Republic, the komiteh, the government, or the Propaganda Organization? All of these things are problems that we have.

Despite all these problems, and even though the komitehs are being questioned by the people, who are asking why these problems exist, and also even though the komiteh has a small share of this load on its shoulders, we declare anew that if all the limitations under consideration are specified, the komiteh is sufficiently ready to implement these laws.

Comparison of Majles Speaker's 7 Dec Speech

Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 7 December carries a 9-minute video recording of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's interview on human rights. The Tehran television version has been compared with Tehran domestic Persian version published in the 7 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 28, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph three, sentence one reads: ...interpretations among the masses of the people. (clearing queried word)

Paragraph six, sentence three reads: ...not feasible in others, which, like Saudi Arabia, for example, do not have a parliament. They forge strong... (supplying unmonitored passage due to break in transmission)

Same paragraph, from last sentence to paragraph seven, sentence one reads: ...of human rights, they should hand this issue over to a neutral party, one which does not have colonialist interests. However, the instruments of Western propaganda also should be at this party's disposal because nothing can be accomplished without the instruments of propaganda. The colonialist powers have the imperialist mass media as their instruments of propaganda; they have the economic instruments for exerting economic pressure; they have political instruments, for which they have their agents all over the world; and they have the military means.

[new graf] Therefore, when they wish to do something, they employ all these ways and means to exert pressure. When they do not wish to do so, they do not announce anything. If there existed a place where a neutral position was adhered to and where these instruments could be used—as human rights are being violated everywhere—they could support the oppressed; wherever the terrorist created trouble, they could stop him; wherever there is no democracy, they could create democracy. These methods would serve some purpose. However, unfortunately, as things are now, the results are the opposite for the people and only the interest of those forces which wish to influence people are served.

[new graf] [Announcer] You referred to the instruments of propaganda. Despite Iran's proclaimed position on human rights, and even though we are witnessing the violation of human rights in various parts of the world, including occupied Palestine and South Africa, anti-Iranian propaganda continues in the Western world. What is your assessment of this?

[new graf] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is a sequel to the same topic. If they were to believe that the government in Iran did not threaten their interests, they could use the means at their disposal to project Iran as the cradle of democracy and human rights. For example, they could visit our prisons and even meet with those prisoners who have admitted to their abnormal behavior, their treachery, and observe that they work there and are paid. Then prisoners are also entitled to leave. In Iran some prisons are operated by the prisoners themselves. However, there are cases in which the individuals who have committed treason and are deserving of punishment are punished. For example, recently, when the Mersad operations took place, the officials brought in prisoners from the opposition group. It transpired that there were opposition members within the country who had been involved in the crimes which Iraq and the monafeqin [hypocrites—Mojahedin-e Khalq] had jointly committed after the cease-fire had been announced. They (?had launched) large-scale subversive activity in the country and they were punished. And they should be penalized... (supplying indistinct passage, deleting announcer-read passage, editorial note not carried in television version)

Paragraph eight, sentence two reads: ...their inability to link the issue to an act of aggression... (correcting queried words)

Same paragraph, sentence four reads: ...are to be truly defended, what about... (clearing queried word)

Paragraph nine, last sentence to paragraph ten, sentences one and two read: ...these countries are able to exert.

[new graf] Meanwhile, in Lebanon, a group is threatened and blood is shed every day but they do not permit the establishment of a people's government. Most of the people of Lebanon... (clearing queried words, supplying indistinct words)

Paragraph ten, last sentence to paragraph eleven, sentence one reads: ...Phalangists' government be forcibly accepted by the people.

[new graf] Some parts of... (correcting queried words)

Paragraph eleven, sentences four and five read: ...very disgraceful phenomenon. We see such an exercise of force in other places... (supplying indistinct words, rewording)

Nepal

Finance Minister Dismisses Devaluation Rumors

BK0912010088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, Dec 8 (AFP)—Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan Thursday [8 December] dismissed rumours that the government was preparing to devalue the Nepalese rupee against the Indian currency and gave a rosy picture of the economy.

Mr. Pradhan, speaking at an economic seminar, described as "nothing but a wild fantasy" recent speculation in the press and business sectors on a devaluation, which has prompted people to start hoarding Indian rupees.

"The growth in exports and increase in balance of payment surplus more than clearly reflect Nepal's strong external competitiveness and the maintenance of the real effective exchange rate of the Nepalese currency," Mr. Pradhan said.

"In such a situation, how could one argue for devaluation... It is nothing but a wild guess," he added at the seminar attended by local businessmen, bankers, economists and academics.

He said Nepal's exports had grown 35.6 percent in fiscal 1987-88 ended in mid-July and had grown 41 percent in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to a year earlier. "We had a balance of payments surplus of about 2,350 million rupees (98 million dollars) during the last fiscal year," he said.

He added that foreign exchange reserves were growing "continuously" and as of November 15 totalled about 7.5 billion rupees (312 million dollars) or "sufficient for six months of imports."

The Finance Ministry has projected foreign exchange reserves of 8.6 billion rupees (360 million dollars) by the end of the current fiscal year.

The rupee is fixed by the government against a basket of hard currencies. "We have been continuing the basket currency system, a flexible system of exchange rate where the adjustment is taking place automatically," Mr. Pradhan said, adding that this had helped Nepal maintain a realistic exchange rate.

"If one compares the situation with what Nepal had in fiscal 1985-86, the fiscal and monetary situation is exactly reverse at present," he said. "We are in a very comfortable position now and the continued increment in production will further consolidate this situation," he told the seminar. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Afghan Captain Defects With MiG-21 Plane

BK0812154488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Captain Asadullah, a pilot of the Afghan Air Force, has defected to Pakistan. He landed his Mig-21 aircraft at an airfield in the Northwest Frontier Province this afternoon and surrendered himself to the Pakistani authorities.

Bhutto Meets U.S. General; Accepts PRC Invitation

BK0812120188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The American Central Command chief, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, called on the prime minister, Mohtarma [Mrs] Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi today and discussed with her matters of mutual interest.

The Chinese ambassador, Mr Tian Ding, also called on the prime minister and conveyed to her warm congratulations from the leadership, the government, and the people of China on her assumption of the office. The prime minister deeply appreciated the warm sentiments and hoped that traditional ties of close friendship and mutual trust between the two countries would be further strengthened during her prime ministership.

The ambassador also conveyed an invitation from the Chinese Government to the prime minister for an early visit to China. Accepting the invitation, the prime minister said that after performing umrah [minor pilgrimage to Mecca], China would be the first country she would visit.

Bhutto Announces Amnesty, Launches Welfare Plan

BK0912003488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1929 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Dec 8 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Thursday [8 December] announced amnesty for political prisoners and launched a two billion rupee (about 110 million U.S. dollars) welfare program in Pakistan's revised budget.

More than 1,100 political prisoners jailed under the military dictatorship of the late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq during the past 11 years will benefit from the amnesty. Already several hundred have begun leaving the country's jails while more than 17,000 prisoners will benefit from various concessions being granted under the amnesty, Law Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has said.

Ms. Bhutto said the Punjab governor will host a grand reception for the released prisoners in Lahore on January 5, marking the birth anniversary of her father, the late Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. "They fought for liberty and dignity and paid the price of personal freedom," the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman told reporters, adding that for them the "jail gates have been opened now."

The prisoners, including students, trade union leaders and PPP activists, were sentenced to long periods of imprisonment after General Zia overthrew Mr. Bhutto's regime in 1977 and two years later ordered his execution on a political murder conspiracy charge.

Ms. Bhutto's six-day-old government has already barred capital punishment, commuted several death sentences to life imprisonment and ordered the issuance of passports to enable the return of people who sought political asylum abroad.

Those tried in absentia and given 14-year terms could now present their cases in civil courts, official sources said. The concession would also allow the return home of Ms. Bhutto's brother, Murtaza Bhutto, who was sentenced in absentia to 14 years in prison on terrorism charges by a military court.

Ms. Bhutto, whose government presented a revised budget to the National Assembly Thursday, told reporters: "Our hands were tied, but we want to do something for the people at this stage." [passage omitted]

UN Approves Proposal for Nonnuclear South Asia

BK0912090688 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The UN General Assembly has approved with an overwhelming majority the Pakistani proposal for a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia and for the strengthening of security guarantees to nonnuclear-weapon states. This is the 15th time the General Assembly affirmed its endorsement in principle on the concept of a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia. The vote was 116 to 2 with 34 abstentions, making the tally the highest ever.

The resolution on strengthening of security guarantees to nonnuclear weapon states was approved by a vote of 152 with none against it.

Revised Federal Budget for 1988 Presented

BK0912095588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The federal budget for the current financial year with updated revision in the light of changes during the last 5 months was presented in the National Assembly this evening.

In his budget speech, the minister of state for finance and economic affairs, Mr Ahsanul Haq Piracha, said the estimates prepared in June 1988 have been revised to take care of several changes that had come about during July to November this year and to correct the estimates which were originally prepared on overoptimistic and weak assumptions by the caretaker government. He said despite our concern, several initiatives to reflect our commitment to programs for amelioration of the lot of the poor, needy, and deprived elements of the society are being sought to be incorporated in this budget.

Revenue receipts, including the effective new budgetary measures announced in June, were estimated at 140.1 billion rupees. As a result of various changes made in the taxation measures and other developments, the estimates made in November show that the revenue receipts would be 127.4 billion rupees showing a decline of 2.7 billion rupees.

Non-tax revenue receipts were estimated at 36.4 billion rupees in June. Only minor changes are expected to be recorded in these estimates. Self-financing by autonomous bodies for their development programs also remained unchanged at the level of 5.5 billion rupees.

The minister of state said federal revenue expenditure was estimated at 121 [billion] rupees in June which was reduced 119.5 billion rupees after proposed economy cuts. The cuts were, however, not fully implemented with the result that the federal revenue expenditure is now estimated at 124.9 billion rupees, showing an increase of 5.4 billion rupees. The annual development program is to be financed entirely by borrowing in addition to the revenue deficit of 15.6 billion rupees.

The minister of state said it has been decided to inaugurate the people 's development program for which an amount of 2 billion rupees is being earmarked. This will be nontaxable for a period of 1 year. The amount will be distributed on the basis of population, both in rural areas as well as cities. The schemes will be approved by a committee of popularly-elected representatives of the area.

The program will get priority for supply of drinking water, education, and health besides some other development categories to be specified. This will achieve the multiple objectives of social development, local participation, and employment creation. It is planned to increase power generation capacity by 610 megawatts during the current fiscal year. Besides public sector, private sector will also be encouraged to undertake power generation in order to supplement the government's efforts. It is also proposed to add 720,000 consumers of electricity and to provide electricity to about 1,718 villages during the year.

The minister of state said the natural gas production is proposed to be increased by 1,174 million cubic feet per day to 1,353 million cubic feet. A sum of 977 million rupees has been earmarked for roads, highways, and bridges, including an allocation of 112 million rupees for the Indus Highway for the current year. In telecommunication sector, the government will give serious consideration to the setting up of a telecommunication corporation.

Mr Ahsanul Haq Piracha said the People's government intends to pursue with greater vigor the people-oriented program for housing, health, education and supply of drinking water. The development program aims at achieving construction of 120,000 new housing units in both public and private sectors. Water supply for both urban and rural population will be improved. Efforts will be made to raise the share of education to the level of 4.5 percent of GNP [Gross National Product]. Free and compulsory education will be provided up to class 5 in the first phase and up to class 10 in the second phase.

An administrative decentralization of the entire health setup will be undertaken. The minister of state reiterated their election pledge that there will be no nationalization and the private sector will be encouraged for industrial development. Industrial sanctions will be simplified and the existing practices of control and regulation will be dismantled. The public sector will also be strengthened to play an effective role in some industrial areas. The government will encourage the setting up of large-scale industrial units by providing finances for such industrial units.

A special cell has been established immediately which will receive proposals and take initiatives to contact potential investors and facilitate the implementation

process. He said, the whole fiscal plan has been in operation for almost half the year and it was impossible for the present government to make the (?belated) changes in the caretaker budget before legal authorization which lapses in 2 weeks time. Therefore, we have accepted the budget in the interest of continuity and smooth transition and also to expedite the process of approval of the house within the available time in accordance with the advice of the Supreme Court.

He said it has been proposed to impose 1 percent import surcharge to effectively control the expenses. This will yield an additional income of 60 crore rupees. The minister of state for finance said we had endeavored to integrate discipline with a clear perception of the priority task. We are confident that we shall have the support of the masses and their elected representatives to build a Pakistan which would be a source of pride for the next generation.

The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said the federal budget announced today reflected the concern of the PPP government to reduce the burden on the common man and spur economic growth in the country. Talking to newsmen in the National Assembly after the presentation of the budget, she said the government has also agreed to only 1 percent surcharge on imports as against the 4 percent which the caretaker government was contemplating to levy.

The prime minister said the budget had been prepared by the caretaker government and the room for maneuverability was limited. For this reason, they decided to end the state of uncertainty and ad hocism and announced the budget with as many changes as they could possibly bring in for people's welfare. She said although their hands were tied, it had been possible to manage an amount of 2 billion rupees to launch a people's development program. The details of the program will be announced later.

Tikka Khan Sworn in Governor of Punjab
BK0912090788 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] General, retired, Tikka Khan was sworn in as the governor of Punjab in Lahore this morning. The chief justice of the Lahore High Court, Mr Justice A.S. Salam, administered the oath of office. The swearing-in ceremony was attended, among others, by the Punjab chief minister, the speaker of the Punjab Assembly, and federal ministers.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, paid a courtesy call on the governor. They pledged to cooperate with each other in accordance with the law and the Constitution.

Bhutto Sends Message to Gorbachev on Earthquake
BK0912034588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0215 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed her heartfelt distress and grief over the heavy loss of life and property during the earthquake in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia. In her message, she asked Soviet leader Gorbachev to convey her message of heartfelt sympathy to the affected families.

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Leader Sworn In as Northeast Chief
BK0912080488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the EPRLF leader, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has been sworn in as the chief minister of the Northeastern Province. President Jayewardene administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at a function in Colombo this morning. A number of government officials and prominent EPRLF leaders were present.

In an interview given to the AIR correspondent soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Mr Perumal has said his government would strive to bring unity among all parties and groups to establish a lasting peace in the region. Mr Perumal again appealed to the LTTE and others who did not participate in the elections to leave the path of violence and joint the democratic process. Later, he also announced portfolios of his cabinet members.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan parliament is debating a bill to enact further legislation to grant operational status to Tamil as one of the official languages of the country. The other official language is Sinhala, English being the link language.